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PRAYERS

FOR

THE USE OF FAMILIES;

OR THE

DOMESTIC MINISTER'S ASSISTANT.

BY WILLIAM JAY,

AUTHOR OF SERMONS, DISCOURSES, &c. &c.

The principal part of family religion is prayer, every morning and evening, and reading some portion of Scripture; and this is so necessary to keep alive a sense of God and religion in the minds of men, that where it is neglected, I do not see how any family can, in reason, be esteemed a family of Christians, or, indeed, have any religion at all.—ARCHBISHOP TILLOTSON.

FROM THE THIRTEENTH LONDON EDITION.

WITH

AN APPENDIX,

CONTAINING

A NUMBER OF SELECT AND ORIGINAL PRAYERS,

FOR PARTICULAR OCCASIONS.

SALEM:

PUBLISHED BY HENRY WHIPPLE.

1835.

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PREFACE.

If, in the title of this volume, the Author has used the word "Minister," in rather an unusual latitude, its adjective will serve to explain, and restrict it. The "Domestic" Minister intends, not the pastor, or preacher; not the servant of the Most High God, who officially shows unto men the way of salvation — but he, who adopts the resolution of Joshua, As for *me* and *my house*, *we* will serve the Lord.

The preservation and spread of religion should not depend, exclusively, on a particular order of men, however important their function may be. *All* christians, in their respective stations, ought to co-operate with those, who are, by designation, workers together with God.

It ought to be a matter of thankfulness, that the number of ministers, properly so called, who enter into the spirit of their office, and preach the truth as it is in Jesus, is exceedingly increased. But compared with the field, and the vastness of the work, the laborers are yet few. And few they would be found, if multiplied a thousand fold; and we should *still* need the property, the talents, the influence, the example, the exertions, the prayers, of *all* the subjects of divine grace.

And can their services be dispensed with *now?*

God is not the God of confusion, but of peace; and He has said, Let every thing be done decently, and in order. It is his providence that determines the bounds of our habitation, and furnishes the several stations we occupy; and into *these* we are to look for our duties and opportunities. Men are often led out of their own proper sphere of action in order to be useful; but it is ignorance, if not discontent, and pride, that tempts them astray.

As the stream of a river is most lovely and beneficial when it patiently steals along its own channel, though it makes not so much noise, and excites not so much notice, as when it breaks over its banks, and roars and rolls as a flood: so good men are most acceptable and useful in their appointed course. Wisdom will estimate every man by what he is, not out of his place and calling, but in them. *There* we naturally look after him; there we unavoidably compare him with his obligations; there we see him habitually — and there he gains a character, or goes without one.

It is to be feared that some even of the stricter professors of religion have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. It blazes at a distance; but it burns dim at home. In a day like the present, there will be many *occasional* calls of public *duty;* but it will be a sad exclamation to make at a dying hour, "My own vineyard have I not kept." In the spiritual, still more than in the temporal neglect, "He that provideth not for his own, especially those of his own house, hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."

"You wish to serve your generation?" It is well that it is in your heart; but let it be according to the will of God. And how does this require you to proceed? From public relation into private, or from private into public? Does it order you to waste time and strength to go to a *distance;* and begin laboring where difficulties will be too great and means too few to allow of your improving the waste, back to your own door? Or to begin *near;* to cultivate onward; to clear and fertilize the ground as you advance; so as to feel every acquisition already made, converted into a resource to encourage, support, and assist you, in your future toil?

"You long to be useful?" And why are you not? Can you want either opportunity or materials—*you,* who are placed at the head of families; *you,* who are required to rule well your own households; to dwell with your wives according to knowledge; to train up your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; to behave towards your servants, as remembering that you also have a master in heaven. Behold, O man of God, a congregation endeared and attentive, committed to thy trust. Behold a flock whom you may feed with knowledge and understanding, and before whom you may walk as an example, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Behold a church in thy house. Behold an altar on which to offer the morning and evening sacrifice of prayer and of praise.

Here, observe these things without preferring one before another; here teach and exhort, and reprove with all long suffering and patience; here officiate—and "Ye shall be named the PRIESTS of the Lord; men shall call you the MINISTERS of our God."

The remark of Baxter is worthy our regard—"If family religion was duly attended to, and properly discharged, I think the preaching of the word would not be the common instrument of conversion." And Gurnal says, "The family is the nursery of the church. If the nursery be neglected, what in time will become of the gardens and the orchards?"

The Author will not endeavor to establish the duty of domestic worship. Many excellent things have been written upon this subject; and what he himself could offer in support of the practice, is already before the public.*

It is futile to allege, as some have done, that there is no positive and express command for it in the Scripture; when nothing would be more easy, than to prove the will of God—from the simplest deductions, from the fairest reasonings, and from the most generally acknowledged principles.

The examples of the faithful; the commendations which God has bestowed upon them in his word; his promises and threatenings; the obvious and numberless advantages resulting from domestic devotion, as to personal religion, and relative government—with regard to those that preside in the family; and as to instruction, restraints, and motives—with regard to relations, children, and servants: All this must surely be enough to induce any

* See the Introduction to the Author's Four Volumes of Short Discourses, for the use of Families.

man, capable of conviction, to terminate with a broken heart the mischiefs of neglect; and to swear unto the Lord, and vow unto the mighty God of Jacob — "Surely, I will not come into the tabernacle of my house, nor go up into my bed, I will not give sleep to mine eyes, nor slumber to mine eyelids, until I find out a place for the Lord, an habitation for the mighty God of Jacob."

As to objections arising from shame, a want of time, the unfashionableness of the usage, or its interfering with visits or dissipations: all this in a being who yet owns himself to be a moral and an accountable creature, is unworthy of argument, and would be too much honored by the attempt of refutation.

There is one thing however which deserves notice. It is the apprehension of inability to perform this duty. With respect to some, if not many, it is no breach of charity to conclude that this is an *excuse* rather than a *reason*. It is disinclination, or at least the want of a more powerful conviction, that hinders them from adopting this salutary usage, rather than incapacity. There are few cases in which the old adage is not to be verified: "Where there is a will, there is a way." You feel little difficulty in making known your distresses or wishes to a fellow creature; and the Lord looketh, not to the excellency of the language, but to the heart. The facility would be increased by practice and the divine blessing.

And I cannot but earnestly recommend the use of free and extemporaneous prayer, where it is practicable. There is in it a freshness, a particularity, an appropriateness, an immediate adoption and use of circumstances and events, which cannot be found in the best composed forms.

Yet there are those who have only a slender degree of religious knowledge, or discover a natural slowness and hesitancy of utterance, or feel a bashfulness of temper, so that they cannot gain confidence enough even to make a proper trial. And this diffidence is often found, even with persons of education and understanding. Indeed such are more likely to feel difficulty than the vulgar and illiterate, whose ignorance is friendly to fluency, and whose confidence is not perplexed by modes of expression, or embarrassed by the influence of reputation.

Now in cases of inability, or extreme difficulty, surely the greatest zealot for extemporary prayer would recommend forms in preference to neglect.

Besides, there are others — many in the Establishment, and no few out of it — who deem a form more eligible; and it is needless to remark that they have a right to their opinion; and as their practice will of course be regulated by it, it is desirable to aid them in their own way.

And surely in this case, as well as in many others, where we see so much talent, and religion, and even devotional taste, in the opposing advocates, candor requires and compels the concession, that all the arguments, all the advantages, cannot be on *one* side of the question.

Bigotry delights in exclusion; but the meekness of wisdom is satisfied

with preference, and freely says, Let every one be fully persuaded in his own mind. The amiable Dr. Watts observes, "Many a holy soul has found his inward powers awakened and excited to lively religion, in the use of a form, where the wants and wishes of the heart have been happily expressed; and considering the various infirmities that surround human nature, even the wisest and best of men may be glad of such assistance at some seasons."

Several books of prayers have issued from the press; and it is not necessary to undervalue or conceal them, in order to excuse or even justify another effort in the same cause. The great excellency of some of these composures is well known.

Yet it must be confessed that such works, compared with other religious publications, are still very few; and that the far greater part of what we possess is more for personal and private use than domestic. Even in the deservedly popular volume of Jenks, there are only *family* prayers for *one week;* the rest are all for *individual* service.

But whatever might have been the Author's own opinion of the expediency or necessity of such a work as this — in order to furnish a greater abundance, or to accommodate a difference of tastes, or to excite attention by newness, or to edify more by brevity and simplicity — he can truly aver, that he was principally induced to undertake it at the request of many, urged for years with importunity.

In complying with their desires, he still fears he shall not satisfy their wishes. He unquestionably has not satisfied his own. In the want of that leisure which allows a man to throw his whole soul into the composition of his work, and then to employ all his skill in correcting and completing it, he has done in a few months, at the intervals of much public duty and interruption, what he could. Should the effort obtain acceptance, he shall consider it the greatest honor that could have been conferred upon him, that the service of God should ever be performed in words which he has furnished so imperfectly.

He can reckon on some esteemed connexions, whose partiality, as it has often admitted him into their circles as a friend, and employed him at their domestic altar as an expositor and intercessor, will retain him as an assistant, in this volume; and thus while absent in body, he will be present with them in spirit. He is also blessed with children, who will not neglect a practice, to which in the order of a happy family they were so early accustomed, and which was never rendered irksome by tediousness; and they will — yes, he knows they will — train up their children in the same holy and lovely usage. And should relationship and endearment serve to render the book the more valued and useful, as a sacred bequest to his descendants, this alone would keep him from thinking he had labored in vain.

PERCY PLACE, April, 1820.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Author begs leave to offer a few words on the execution of the work itself here submitted to public attention.

Family prayers ought to be short, especially where reading the Scripture makes a part of the service — and it ought always to make a part. Hence the prayers for the week-days may be read in five or six minutes; those for the Sabbath are commonly a little longer, as families have then more leisure, and are more united; those for particular occasions, as they rarely return, and the events are remarkable, are the longest of all.

A prayer is distinguishable from the repetition of a creed, or the annunciation of a system of theology; how much more from the sparring and reflections of controversy! A tincture of the Author's own particular sentiments was hardly avoidable; but he has sought after nothing that would be offensive to Christians who differ from him. And as religious persons accord much more when kneeling than sitting, he ventures to think no one will be unable to join in these forms, who believes in the fall of man, the redemption of the cross, justification by faith, the necessity of divine influence, and of that holiness without which we cannot see the Lord. The Author braves the suspicion of those who are illiberal enough to guage a man's orthodoxy by the use of an invariable doxology, in the language too which man's wisdom teacheth. Not that he thinks it wrong to close a prayer with a scriptural meaning in human terms; but he prefers the words which the Holy Ghost useth; and where they afford a diversity, why should we be afraid to avail ourselves of it? In this respect the sacred writers would not bear the ordeal of some system-critics.

The Author thinks no one can blame him for using so much of the language of the Scripture; there is a sacredness in it, and it is well known; much of it too has been used devotionally, and contains the adorations, confessions, supplications, and thanksgivings, uttered by men of God before us, while kneeling at a throne of grace.

Besides being scriptural, he has endeavored to be very plain and simple in the diction. There is a great difference between addressing men and addressing God. The least artificial mode of uttering our thoughts in prayer is the best. Prayer admits of no brilliancies; every studied ornament it rejects with disdain. He who feels interested in prayer will forget all critical and elaborate phraseology. And it is an infelicity to be deplored rather than an excellency to be admired, when ingenuity of thought or surprisingness of expression catches and keeps off the attention from devotion. There are young divines who not only err in preaching, by substituting finery for

elegance, and the affectation of art for the eloquence of feeling; but in their devotional exercises too, showing off their tawdrinesses, even in the presence of God, and praying in a strained, inflated style, unintelligible to the ignorant, lamented by the pious, and contemned by the wise. The greatest men have always been distinguished by the plainness and simplicity of their devotional language. What a difference is there between the other compositions of Johnson and his prayers! No hard word, no elaborate sentence, no classical, no metaphorical allusion, is to be found in any of the few forms of devotion which he has left us. The same excellency pervades the Liturgy. And it is worthy of remark, that in no prayer recorded in the Bible, is any figure employed unless as familiar as the literal expression.

This however does not forbid the use of sentences not *directly* of the nature of petition. Prayer is designed not only as an homage to God, but as a moral exercise to affect ourselves; and to accomplish this purpose we must be informed or reminded. What therefore tends to make us *feel* the things we implore, is not to be considered, as some call it, a preaching or talking in prayer. Read all the prayers given us in the Scripture: there is not one of them which does not contain expressions of enlargement, not immediately petitionary, yet conducive to the design.

With regard to appropriateness, Jenks has observed, "That we may as well expect to find a shoe that will fit every foot, as a form of prayer to suit every purpose." Family prayers must be necessarily general, or adapted to the state of a household, *devoid of its peculiarities*. No form can be made to include every particular circumstance or occurrence; the very things that would render it suitable to one family, would even hinder the use of it by another. The Author fears whether in a few instances he has not forgotten this.

Yet events and circumstances are perpetually arising, and it is of great importance to notice them *devotionally*. Almost every prayer recorded in the Scriptures arose out of particular occurrences, and was designed to improve them. Here is a difficulty which there is only one way of removing. It is by adding some short addresses applicable to certain events and circumstances, and which the reader may insert in their proper place in the prayer, or use at the end of it. Many of these, therefore, the Author has supplied in the close of the volume. Many more might have been added, had the prayers been designed for *personal* and *private* use.

In *seventy* forms of the same kind, it was not easy to maintain so much diversity as some would wish. Family devotion in itself admits of less variety than either private or public worship. But though similarity will be sometimes found, sameness, he believes, with a very few trifling exceptions. has been avoided. This does not extend however to the repetition of the same *scripture* sentences.

The Author has felt what a difference there is between offering and writing a prayer; but he endeavored as much as possible when he retired to

compose, to place himself by thought in the situation of performance; and followed the same mode in writing which he has always found the best in praying, to exclude formality and to gain variety — to yield to the *present* feeling of the mind, whether it leads to indulge *principally* in confession or in thanksgiving, petition, or intercession.

Some things must be *always* expressed; others can only be admitted *occasionally*. Yet these should not be forgotten. Cases of affliction; the state of public affairs; the nation; the cause of God in the world: these and other things, though not particularized in every exercise, must be noticed so frequently as to keep the mind alive to them.

With regard to the prayers for particular occasions — such as pertain to days of mourning, fasting, or thanksgiving; and those which respect the beginning and end of the year — will draw forth no objection. But as to those which regard religious *festivals*, some will probably condemn the Author on the ground of consistency. On that ground he is willing to be tried. Consistency refers to professed principles; and he avows principles which raise him above any particular body of Christians, while yet he deems it his honor to belong to one of them in preference to all others.

But his attachment to his regiment does not make him an enemy to the army of which it is a part. Let every one of us, says the Apostle, please his neighbor for his good to edification. Why should not the Author wish to be serviceable to members of other communions, as well as to those of his own?

Dr. Watts, though a firm Pedobaptist, has yet composed and inserted in his excellent book, several hymns adapted to the convictions of those who practice adult baptism by immersion only.

And the late Mr. Newton, though an Episcopalian, made no scruple when desired to draw up a plan for a dissenting academy.

"Let us stand in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free. Let not him that eateth, despise him that eateth not; and let not him that eateth not, judge him that eateth, for God hath received him. Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. One man esteemeth one day above another, another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it." Here every thing non-essential is left, where it ought to be left, to individual *conviction* and *candor*.

Upon these principles, the Author thinks, a dissenter without superstition may use these forms on these *very days;* especially as he is under no compulsion, and he has nothing to do with the day, but as a season of leisure, and as reminding him of some important truth.

A Christian, however, if he disregards the seasons, must love the *subjects* connected with them; and at some time or other he may wish more *expressly* to notice them; and this he can do by means of these forms, with the omission of a few words.

It is comparatively easy to be long and diffuse; but to be select and yet full, brief and yet comprehensive — this is the trial.

The Author could have composed a single prayer far superior to any of these; but the difficulty lay in the number; and the work must be judged of as a whole.

It is hardly necessary to observe, that with a slight alteration, and the substitution of the singular number for the plural, most of these prayers will serve for the closet as well as the family.

ADVERTISEMENT TO THE THIRD AMERICAN EDITION.

In republishing this last volume of Mr. Jay, the American Editor cannot but hope he has performed an acceptable and useful service. The high satisfaction with which other works of the same esteemed author have been received in this country, is a sufficient recommendation of the present performance, to secure it general attention. Of its intrinsic, or comparative value, the public will judge, when they shall have given it a faithful perusal. Few alterations have been made in the original work, except where its local character demanded it; and then the subject has been adapted to the circumstances of our own country, without breaking the Author's connexion, or materially affecting his style. That it might be still more complete, an Appendix, containing several selected and a few original forms of devotion, has been added. It is now commended to the attention of the christian public, as a more complete manual for the use of FAMILIES than has hitherto been published.

Salem, Mass., Sept. 1824.

Since the third edition of this work was printed, the publisher has received the thirteenth London edition, issued under the immediate supervision of Mr. Jay. This Fourth Edition has been carefully compared with that, and is believed to be the only American edition which contains all the Prayers published by the author.

Salem, January, 1835.

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FIRST WEEK.

SUNDAY MORNING.

O come, let us worship and fall down, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker, for He is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Yes, O Lord, we are thine; and Thee we are bound to serve. We grieve to think how many of our fellow creatures live without Thee in the world; and confess with shame that other lords have had dominion over *us:* but henceforth by Thee only will we make mention of thy name. We hope Thou hast subdued the insensibility and indifference towards thyself, so awfully natural to us, and awakened in us the inquiry, Where is God my Maker that giveth songs in the night? We hope we are disposed to acknowledge Thee in all our ways; but we feel our need of the exercises of devotion. We trust we hold communion with Thee every day; but we find week days to be worldly days; and our allowed intercourse with secular concerns tends to reduce our heavenly impressions, and to make us forgetful of our work, and our rest. We therefore bless Thee for the return of a day sacred to our souls and eternity; — a time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord; — in which, by waiting upon Thee, our hearts are enlarged, and our strength is renewed: so that we can mount up with wings as eagles, run and not be weary, and walk and not faint.

This is the day which the Lord hath made, we will rejoice and be glad in it. O let our minds be withdrawn from the world, as well as our bodies. Let our retirement be devout. Let our meditation be sweet. Let our conversation be edifying. Let our reading be pious. Let our hearing be profitable — and on Thee may we wait all the day!

Afford us the supply of the spirit of Jesus Christ. None can need thy succors more than we. Thou knowest our infirmities — let thy strength be made perfect in our weakness. Our duties are far above our own power — let thy grace be sufficient for us. Our dangers are numberless, and we are utterly unable to keep ourselves from falling — hold Thou us up, and we shall be safe. The burdens we feel would press our lives down to the ground — lay underneath us thine everlasting arms. Fears alarm us; cares corrode us; losses impoverish us; our very affections are the sources of our afflictions; surely man walketh in a vain show; surely we are disquieted in vain: all, all is vanity and vexation of spirit. While in the world we have tribulation, in Thee may we have peace: and in the multitude of our thoughts within us, may thy comforts delight our souls!

Yet, O Lord, we would remember, that gratitude becomes us much more than complaint. Our afflictions have been light, compared with our guilt; and few, compared with the sufferings of others. They have all been attended with numberless alleviations: they have all been needful; all founded in a regard to our welfare; all designed to work together for our good. We bless Thee for what is past; and trust Thee for what is future; and cast all our care upon Thee, knowing that Thou carest for us.

Thou hast commanded us to pray for all men, that we may be bound by our very devotions, as we have oppor-

tunity, to do good unto all men, especially unto them that are of the household of faith. May we always cherish and display benevolent dispositions towards our dependents; forgiving dispositions towards our enemies; peaceable dispositions towards our neighbors; and candid dispositions towards our fellow christians. May we be able to say with our Lord and Savior, *Whosoever* shall do the will of my Father that is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother; and pray with Paul, Grace be with *all* them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity.

May the goings of our God and King be seen, this day, in every Christian sanctuary. Go with *us* to thy house, and give testimony to the word of thy grace. May it have free course, and be glorified in the hearts and lives of those that shall hear it. May it enlighten the ignorant; awaken the careless; reclaim the wandering; establish the weak; comfort the feeble-minded; and make ready a people prepared for the Lord!

Remember those who are this day denied our advantages. Be a little sanctuary to them in the midst of their privations; and let them know that Thou art not confined to temples made with hands. And O forget not those who never enjoyed our privileges; never smiled when a Sabbath appeared; never heard of the name of a Savior; and let thy way be known on earth, thy saving health among all nations! Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

SUNDAY EVENING.

Who is like unto Thee, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like Thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders? May we approach Thee with the humility which is due to thy greatness, and the hope that becomes thy goodness. For though Thou art high, yet hast Thou respect unto the lowly; and though continually adored by thrones and dominions, principalities and powers, yet Thou despisest not the prayer of the destitute, but wilt hear their prayer. Our fathers cried unto Thee, and were delivered. They trusted in Thee, and were not confounded. And Thou never saidst to the seed of Jacob, Seek ye me in vain.

Behold a company of sinners at thy footstool, earnestly praying to be remembered with the favor Thou bearest unto thy people, and to be visited with thy salvation! We would not overlook the blessings of the life that now is. If we have food, and raiment, and agreeable connexions, and ease, and health, and safe abode, we would bless Thee; for we have no claim to these bounties, and our present condition renders them valuable. But they are not our God; —

> Give what Thou canst, without Thee we are poor,
> And with Thee rich, take what Thou wilt away.

Thou art the strength of our hearts, and our portion forever. Whom have we in heaven but Thee? and there is none upon earth that we desire beside Thee.

And praise waiteth for Thee, O God, in Zion. We long to be able, with unshaken confidence, to apply the promises of thy grace to ourselves; and to say, Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterwards receive me to glory. O say to our souls, in language our consciences

can understand, I am thy salvation; and give us a token for good, that we may rejoice in Thee.

Yet, O God, we would not rest satisfied with a conviction of our relation to Thee, while we are regardless of improving it. May we walk worthy of the Lord, unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might according to his gracious power, unto all patience and long suffering with joyfulness; giving thanks unto the Father who hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light. We can never discharge the obligations thy abundant mercy has laid us under; but may we ever shew that we are sensible of them; and that our impressed hearts are asking, *What* shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits towards me? While we hear Thee saying, O do not that abominable thing which I hate, may we be effectually deterred from sin, and induced to watch and pray, lest we enter into temptation. May thy love be shed abroad in our hearts, that none of thy commandments may be grievous. May thy glory be dear to us: may we inquire after thy will with impartiality, and conform ourselves to it with diligence. Uphold us by thy free spirit; and let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our redeemer.

Hitherto we have been compelled to exclaim, My leanness, my leanness! We have been no better in religion than a bruised reed or smoking flax. But it is our mercy that Thou dost not despise the day of small things; and our encouragement, that Thou givest more grace; that Thou hast promised to perfect that which concerneth us; and commanded us to ask and receive, that our joy may be full. May we therefore not only be humble but active; may we not only shake off sloth, but despondency; may

we be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might; and increase with all — the increase of God, till we are filled with all — the fulness of God.

Thou knowest what is in man, and what is necessary to him. Thou art not only addressing us continually by the voice of creation, and the varying events of thy providence, but Thou hast given us thy word and thine ordinances. We behold our sabbaths, our eyes see our teachers, and our ears hear the joyful sound of salvation by the cross, and the grace of our Lord Jesus. Prophets and righteous men desired to see the things that we see, and did not see them; and to hear the things that we hear, and did not hear them. But blessed are our eyes, for they see; and our ears, for they hear. Yet we would remember, that our responsibility will be answerable to our talents; that our chief danger results from our greatest privileges; and that our very blessings may be converted into a curse. We would therefore fear, lest a promise being left us of entering into thy rest, any of us should seem to come short of it.

Bless this family. May those of us who are at the head of it, walk within our house with a perfect heart, and set no wicked thing before our eyes. May we have a testimony in the bosoms of those who have the best opportunities of observing us, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by thy grace, we have our conversation in the world, and more especially to them-ward. May we conduct ourselves towards those who serve us, as knowing that we have a master in heaven, and that there is no respect of persons with God; and may our servants, in fulfilling the duties of their station, serve the Lord Christ. May we train up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; and have the inexpressible satisfaction of seeing them walk in the truth.

We ask not great things for them of a worldly nature; only give them health of body and soundness of mind, and food and raiment convenient and sufficient for them: but O bless them with all spiritual blessings, and number them with thy saints in glory everlasting. Pity those parents whose hearts are bleeding over children of disobedience; and hear all the pious, whose irreligious relations are forcing them often to exclaim, How shall I endure to see the destruction of my kindred!

Hast not Thou made of one blood all the nations of men that dwell upon the face of all the earth? Remember the work of thy hands. Have respect unto thy holy covenant, and let the world know that Thou hast so loved it, as to give thy only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Hear the prayers which have this day been offered for our native country, for our rulers, and for the government under which we live. It is a good land which the Lord our God hath given us: Thou hast done great things for us, whereof we are glad. May we never grow insensible of our privileges, and provoke Thee by our sins to remove them. May they be continued to the latest posterity, and be sanctified to us and to our children. As Thou hast given us such a distinguished rank among the nations, may we be for a name and a praise unto Thee, in the whole earth: and as we are so largely the subjects of thy goodness, may we be the instruments too; and from us may the word of the Lord sound out into every land.

Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus, throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.

O THOU God of all grace; the Father of mercies; the hope of Israel, the Savior thereof in the time of trouble: Why hast Thou revealed Thyself in such lovely characters and endearing relations, but to meet our dejections, to remove our fears, and induce us to say, It is good for me to draw nigh to God!

We come to Thee as criminals to be pardoned, as beggars to obtain relief, and as friends to enjoy communion with the God of love. We bow with submission and gratitude to the method which Thou hast appointed and made known for all intercourse between Thee and us. We approach Thee through him in whom Thou hast proclaimed Thyself well pleased, pleading the propitiation of his blood, and making mention of his righteousness, and of his only.

But we can have access to Thee through him only—by one Spirit—that Spirit, the residue of which is with Thee, and which has actuated the souls of thy people in all ages. O give thy Holy Spirit to them that now ask Thee. May He open the eyes of our understanding, and convince us of sin. May He humble the pride of our self-righteous hearts, and expel us from every refuge of lies. May He glorify Christ in our wants, desires, dependence, and application; and take of the things of Christ and show them to us. May we be enabled to receive the Lord Jesus in all his blessings and influences; and though now we see Him not, yet believing, may we rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory. In all the distresses of conscience, in all the afflictions of life, and in all the dissatisfactions necessarily experienced in creature-enjoyments, may we repair, weary and heavy laden, to *Him* who has promised to give us rest. May the vanity of the world wean us

from its pursuits; and may the tribulation of the world endear the peace which no storm can either prevent or destroy!

May we arise and depart hence; may we confess ourselves to be only strangers and pilgrims upon earth; and declare plainly — too plainly to be misunderstood, that we seek a better country, even an heavenly. Prepare us for all the allotments of this short, and changing, and uncertain life. May we have a safe passage out of it, and a comfortable passage through it, and a useful residence in it. May we continually illustrate in our character and conduct, the representations Thou hast given of thy people, as the dew of heaven, the salt of the earth, the light of the world. May we never deem it enough to be blameless and harmless; but may our light so shine before men that they may see our good works, and glorify our Father which is in heaven. May we never be ashamed of Jesus, nor of his words; never be deterred from the prosecution of a known duty by the fear of man; and never be discouraged from attempting it by a consciousness of our own weakness. Having thy sanction and presence, may we be strong and courageous; and be stedfast and unmoveable; always abounding in the work of the Lord.

What we know not, teach Thou us. Lead us into all truth. May we see divine things in a divine light, that while they inform our judgment, they may sanctify the heart, and consecrate the whole life to the service and glory of God. Who can understand his errors? Cleanse Thou us from secret faults. Search us, O God, and know our hearts; try us, and know our thoughts, and see if there be any wicked way in us, and lead us in the way everlasting.

Accept of our united thanksgivings for the preservation

and refreshment of the past night; and take us under thy guiding and guardian care this day; and whether we eat or drink, or whatever we do, may we do all to the glory of God, through our Lord and Savior. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.

We have heard that to the Lord our God belong mercies and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against him. Hence we are encouraged to approach Thee. For we are verily guilty, we are deeply guilty. If our depravity has not always broken forth into action, our hearts have been deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; and if our transgressions have not been so gross as those of many of our fellow-creatures, they have been more aggravated, because committed against goodness the most astonishing, light the most clear, and advantages the most distinguishing. And Thou hast seen all, and abhorred all, and couldst easily and righteously have punished us for all. But Thou hast not executed upon us the fierceness of thine anger, because Thou art God and not man. Neither hast Thou treated us with neglect; but Thou hast remembered us in our low estate; and not only without our desert, but without our desire, Thou wast pleased to devise means for our restoration to thy favor, and image, and presence.

We bless thee for a purpose of grace given us in Christ Jesus before the world began. We rejoice that in the fulness of time he assumed our nature, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross; and that, as he was delivered for our offences, so he was raised again for our justification, and ascending up on high, entered into the holy place, as a proof of the sufficiency and acceptance

of the sacrifice he offered. We rejoice that he has received the whole dispensation of the Spirit, and that in him all fulness dwells. And we bless Thee for the proclamations of the gospel, which hold him forth to our view in all his grace and glory, and unsearchable riches, that we through patience and comfort of the scripture might have hope.

O Thou God of hope, fill us with all joy and peace in believing thy promises and invitations, that we may abound in hope through the power of the Holy Ghost. May we esteem all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord; and may we supremely desire to win Christ, knowing that he who hath the Son hath life, and shall never come into condemnation. May we prove that we are joined to the Lord, by being one spirit with him. May our sentiments, tempers, and conduct, be formed after the example which he left us; and may we never consider ourselves Christians, but as we long to be like him, and the life also of Jesus be made manifest in our mortal body. May we never love a world that crucified the Lord of glory; nor suffer those sins to live that caused him to die. May his grace in becoming poor that we through his poverty might be rich, make us ashamed of our selfishness; and may his unexampled love, in giving his life a ransom for us, so constrain us, as to render any services or sacrifices for his sake our delight.

May He never be wounded in the house of his professed friends. May we rather die than bring a reproach upon his cause. May all his followers be dear to us. May we recommend him to those that know him not, that they may seek him with us. Let the number of those who love his salvation daily increase; and let the accessions include every member of our household, and all our absent friends. Hasten, O Lord, the blessed hour, when all kings shall fall down before him, and all nations shall

serve him — And blessed be his glorious name forever! And let the whole earth be filled with his glory.

We praise Thee as the length of our days and the God of our mercy. In the morning we committed ourselves to thy care, and Thou hast been with us in our going out and our coming in, and hast kept us in all our ways. Pardon whatever Thou hast seen amiss in us through another period of our time. Accept the charge of us through the approaching night, and grant us the sleep which Thou givest thy beloved; for we hope we desire it not only as creatures, but as Christians; not only to gratify our feelings, but to renew our strength for thy service, and to fit us to glorify Thee in our bodies as well as in our spirits, through our adorable Redeemer. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O Thou omnipresent and omniscient Jehovah! Thou art about our path, and our lying down; and Thou art acquainted with all our ways. There is not a word in our tongue, but lo! O Lord, Thou knowest it altogether. Thou understandest our very thoughts afar off. Yea the darkness hideth not from Thee, but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to Thee.

Known therefore to Thee are our sins, with every aggravation; and our necessities, with all their circumstances. Yet Thou requirest us to confess our guilt, and to spread our wants before Thee, in order that we ourselves may be suitably affected with them, and be prepared for the promised displays of thy goodness. Every view we take of ourselves convinces us that we lie entirely at thy mercy, and that it is only because thy compassions fail not we are not consumed. We know not the evil

there is in one sin; and our iniquities are more in number than the hairs of our head. Thou art our creator; but of the rock that begat us we have been unmindful, and have forgotten the God that formed us. Thou hast nourished and brought up children; but we have rebelled against Thee. Thou hast given us laws, founded in a regard to our welfare as well as thine own glory; but we have said with our lives, if not with our lips, Who is the Lord, that we should obey his voice? Thou art the perfection of beauty, the centre of excellency, the source of all blessedness; and Thee we ought to have loved supremely: but we have loved and served the creature more than the Creator: we have loved idols, and after them we have gone. Instead of praying, Lord, lift Thou up the light of thy countenance upon us, we have asked with the multitude, Who will show us any good? Departing from Thee, we have made flesh our arm. We have leaned on broken reeds, and though they have disappointed our hopes, and pierced us through with many sorrows, we have often returned to the same wretched dependence. Thou hast raised up for us a Savior; and the gospel has presented to our view a plan of redemption and renovation which the angels desire to look into. But we have crowned all our guilt, by neglecting so great salvation, and turning away from Him that speaketh from heaven; and we deserve to be forever excluded from all the blessings of the cross.

O deal not with us after our desert, but according to our necessity; and where sin has abounded, may grace much more abound. Over all our unworthiness may grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life, by Jesus Christ our Lord. It is thy pleasure that we seek Thee. The desires we feel are of thine own producing. We are willing to be saved in thy own way. We love thy salva-

tion; we love it as it is free, and secures to thyself the undivided glory; and we love it as it is holy, and designed to save us from the power as well as the penalty of sin. O visit us with thy salvation! Shine into our hearts, and give us the light of the knowledge of thy glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Enable us by faith to embrace thy unspeakable gift. May we sit at his feet. May we glory in his cross. May we imbibe his spirit. May we follow his example; and whatsoever we do, in word or deed, may we do all in the name of the Lord Jesus.

We extend our wishes beyond the little circle now kneeling in thy presence. We have various absent connexions endeared to our hearts: O place them under thy agency as the God of grace; and keep them under thy care as the God of providence.

We would remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and those that suffer adversity, as being ourselves also in the body. Address to the hearts of the afflicted the promise, I will be with thee in trouble; thy shoes shall be iron and brass, and as thy days so shall thy strength be.

Let glory dwell in our land, and upon all the glory may there be a defence. Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion; build Thou the walls of Jerusalem. Make bare thine arm in the sight of all the nations; and let all the ends of the earth see the salvation of our God.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with us all, now and forevermore. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.

O Thou who wast, and art, and art to come, the Almighty! With Thee is the fountain of life. In thy presence there is fulness of joy, and at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore. It is our privilege as well as our duty to draw near to Thee. It is the prerogative of our nature, that of all creatures in this lower world, we alone are made capable of knowing, resembling, serving, and enjoying Thee. All our degradation and misery have been produced by our alienation and absence from Thee; and all our happiness and perfection depend upon our reunion and intercourse with Thee. We therefore bless Thee for the revelation Thou hast given us, and by which we learn, that thy thoughts towards us are thoughts of peace and not of evil. We rejoice in a new and living way into the holiest, by the blood of Jesus, who has once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us unto God. We pray that the grand design of his sacrifice may be accomplished in each of us. May we feel that we are brought back from the dreadful distance to which sin had conveyed us, and that we are one with God again; and henceforth may the life that we live in the flesh, be a life of communion with the Father of our spirits, and of devotedness to him. May thy service be the employment of our days, and the enjoyment of our hearts. May we love thy commands and acquiesce in thy dispensations; and then we are at the gate of heaven.

We lament that this has been so little the case with us, since we have known Thee, or rather have been known of Thee. We ought to be ashamed to think, that after all the instructions of thy word, the ordinances of thy house, and the discipline of thy family, our ears are still so dull

of hearing, and our hearts so slow to believe; that our souls so cleave unto the dust; that we live so much under the influence of things seen and temporal, and feel so little of the powers of a world to come. How obscure is our knowledge; how weak our faith; how low our hope; how wavering our obedience; how lifeless our worship. O Lord, clothe us with humility; and in this attire help us to present Thee the sacrifice of a broken heart and a contrite spirit, which Thou wilt not despise.

And since Thou art the God of all grace, and hast commanded us to ask and receive that our joy may be full; afford us more of the supply of the spirit of Jesus Christ, to give more decision to our character, and more earnestness to our zeal; that with enlarged hearts in the way of thy commandments we may run and not be weary, and walk and not faint. May we always realise thy presence; and may the thought that thine eye is upon us, operate as a check to sin, an excitement to duty, and a source of consolation. May we bear with firmness and submission the various trials of life and religion, and derive from them all the advantage which they are designed to afford. May we glorify the Lord in the fires, and may every day of trouble afford us an opportunity to prove the truth of thy promise, the tenderness of thy care, and the supports of thy grace. May tribulation work patience, and patience experience, and experience hope.

But how few, how limited, and how light are the afflictions with which we are exercised. How much more reason have we to be thankful than to complain. Bless the Lord, O our souls, and all that is within us, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O our souls, and forget not all his benefits; who forgiveth all our iniquities; who healeth all our diseases; who redeemeth our lives from destruction; who crowneth us with loving kindness and tender mercies.

We praise Thee for the protection, the supplies, and the comforts of another day. Take us under thy care for the night on which we have entered. May no evil befal us, nor any plague come nigh our dwelling. Refresh our bodies and renew our strength by needful repose; and when we awake, may we be still with God, and rise to love Thee more and serve Thee better than we ever have done, through our Lord and Savior, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

Again we lift up our eyes unto the hills from whence cometh our help. Our help is in the name of the Lord God, who made heaven and earth.

Thou art the author of all existence, and the source of all blessedness. We adore Thee for making us capable of knowing Thee; for possessing us with reason and conscience; and for leading us to inquire, Where is God my maker, that giveth songs in the night? We praise Thee for all the information with which we are favored to bring us to thyself; especially the revelation of the gospel. Here we look into thy very heart, and see that it is the dwelling place of piety. Here we see thy thoughts towards us, and find that they are thonghts of peace and not of evil. Here we see Thee waiting to be gracious, and exalted to have mercy. Here Thou hast told our consciences how the guilty can be pardoned, the unholy can be sanctified, and the poor furnished with unsearchable riches.

May we be found in the number of those who not only hear but know the joyful sound, that we may walk in the light of thy countenance, in thy name rejoice all the day, and in thy righteousness be exalted. May we take Thee,

the God of truth, at thy word; and believe the record, that Thou hast given to us eternal life, and that this life is in thy Son. And since it is not only a faithful saying, but worthy of all acceptation, that He came into the world to save sinners, to Him may we look alone for salvation, and with all the earnestness the infinite importance of the case requires.

And to Him may we *immediately* repair, remembering how short and uncertain our time is, and filled with holy horror at the thought of closing a life of precious, but neglected, privileges, with the exclamation, The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved. We long for the experience of a present salvation, not only in the comforts, but in the renewings of the Holy Ghost. We desire to have nothing more to do with sin; and pray as sincerely to be restored to thy image, as to be reinstated in thy favor. We implore spiritual graces, as well as spiritual blessings; and pray that we may always value religious duties, as religious privileges. Deliver us from the disposition of the slave, and uphold us in all our goings by thy free spirit; and enable us to run in the way of thy commandments with freedom and delight.

May we cherish simplicity and godly sincerity of character: may we be in reality before God, what we are in appearance before men — Israelites indeed in whom is no guile. May we *be* religious, before we profess religion, and leave the world before we enter the church; that we may not be looking back after its forbidden follies and vanities, but with our affections set on things that are above, walk worthy of Him who has called us to his kingdom and glory.

And while we are the partakers of thy grace, may we be also the dispensers of it too. Freely having received, may we freely give. May we feel it to be the sublimest

of all satisfactions, and count it the greatest of all rewards, to save a soul from death, and to hide a multitude of sins. And while endeavoring to do good, may we be prepared to bear evil. May we consider Him who endured the contradiction of sinners against himself; and if reviled, revile not again; or if opposed or slighted, never grow weary in well doing.

But we bless Thee that the lines are fallen to us in pleasant places. We are strangers to the sufferings of those who have gone before us; and can not only sit ourselves, but call every man his neighbor, under the vine and under the fig-tree. May we avail ourselves of our opportunities, and invite those around us to taste and see that the Lord is good, while it is called to-day, knowing how soon the night cometh wherein no man can work.

O God, count us worthy of this calling, and fulfil in us all the good pleasure of thy goodness, and the work of faith with power: that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in us, and we in Him, according to the grace of our God, and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O Thou that hearest prayer — through Him who is the great Intercessor, let our prayer come before Thee as incense, and the lifting up of our hands as the evening sacrifice. We bless Thee as our creator, the framer of our bodies, and the former of our souls within us. We praise Thee for the blessings of thy providence which encompass us on every side, and are continued to us, notwithstanding our unworthiness. Thou hast not only given us life and favor, but thy visitation hath preserved our spirit, and secured our personal and relative comforts.

But, above all, we thank Thee for thine unspeakable gift. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Here our hopes find anchorage. Here believing we enter into rest. Here all our woes and wants obtain redress and supplies. O may our souls be united to this Savior by a divine faith, he the head and we the members, he the vine and we the branches. May we be his disciples, and learn of him; his soldiers, and war under his banner; his beneficiaries, and live upon his fulness. When we think of our transgressions of thy law, may we remember Him who is the end of the law for righteousness. When we feel our sin, may we think of Him whose blood cleanseth from all sin; and when viewing our trials and duties our weakness makes us despond, may we hear the voice that cries, My grace is sufficient for thee.

May we be followers of him who was meek and lowly in heart, who pleased not himself, who went about doing good, who said, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. Subdue in us the selfishness that is so common to our depraved hearts, and excite in us a disposition to seek after the welfare of others. May sentiments of benevolence and kindness mingle with all our thoughts, words, and actions; may they become more natural, more powerful, more impartial; may we be good to the unthankful and the unworthy, that we may be the children of our Father who is in heaven, for he maketh his sun to shine on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and the unjust.

Yet may we especially do good unto them that are of the household of faith. May all who do the will of our heavenly Father be dear to our hearts. May we prefer Jerusalem above our chief joy. Peace be within her walls, and prosperity within her palaces. Let her become a

praise in the whole earth. And from the rising of the sun to the going down of the same, may thy name be great among the Gentiles, and in every place may incense be offered unto Thee, and a pure offering. The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: command their increase, and abundantly bless those who are already employed.

And may the sincerity of our prayers appear in our exertions and sacrifices. May we honor the Lord with our substance. In our respective stations may we adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things. By every kind of consistent co-operation with our ministers, may we become helpers to the truth: and carrying the effects of the sermons we hear, and dispensing them among those who refuse to hear, win them without the word. May we never hide it in a napkin, because we have only one talent; but use what we have that more may be given; and be concerned to obtain from the Judge of all, the approving sentence pronounced on Mary, She hath done what she could. May we never despise the day of small things; never grow weary in well doing; but cherish with patience as well as with diligence, every serious conviction, every pious tendency, every godly impression.

And let us not labor in vain nor spend our strength for nought. May we be the honored instruments of saving some soul from death; and of producing joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

Above all, render us successful among those who are more fully under our instruction, influence, and authority. May we rule well our own house; and have the pleasure to see all the members of our family, fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; of whom, and through whom, and to whom, are all things; to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O Lord, Thou art good, and Thou doest good. Thou hast revealed Thyself as nigh unto all that call upon Thee, to all that call upon Thee in truth. May we who now address Thee be found the heirs of this promise; nor suffer us to incur the reproach of drawing near to Thee with the mouth, and honoring Thee with our lips, while our hearts are far from Thee. Unite our hearts to fear thy name; and grant that we may worship Thee in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh. We remember that we are sinners, and acknowledge the multitude and aggravations of our offences. Conscious not only of the reality, but the greatness, of our guilt, we could indulge no hope, hadst not Thou exhibited thine infinite benevolence, and revealed a Mediator, in whom Thou art reconciling the world unto thyself, not imputing their trespasses unto them.

Thou hast not left thyself without witness, in that Thou hast been doing us good, and giving us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness. But herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Blessed be thy name, we have all the certainty we could desire, that with Thee there is mercy. *That* mercy the publican sought, and found: *that* mercy has never disappointed any that trusted in it; *that* mercy at this very moment cries to us, Ask and it shall be given *you*, seek and ye shall find. O Lord, we avail ourselves of thine invitation, and plead thy promise! According to the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out our transgressions. Create in us also a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within us.

We hope we are convinced that while many things are desirable and some useful, *one* thing is needful; and that instead of the inquiry, What shall I eat, and what shall I drink, and wherewithal shall I be clothed? the supreme anxiousness of our soul is, What must I do to be saved? O visit us with thy salvation, in the illumination of the mind, and the sanctification of the life; in all the comforts of the Holy Ghost, and in all the fruits of the Spirit. May we willingly obey all thy commands, and cheerfully submit to all thy appointments. In the annihilation of self-will, and in the temper of implicit devotedness, may we, as to every duty, say, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And as to every event, Here I am, let Him do what seemeth Him good. Grant us piety and wisdom to accommodate ourselves to the allotments of life; and enable us to maintain a christian temper and behavior in all the changing scenes of providence, that all things may work together, if not for our gratification, yet for our good.

May we disengage ourselves from the present evil world, and be received and acknowledged as the sons and daughters of the Lord Almighty. May the righteous be our attraction and delight; and though few in number, and despised by the foolish and wicked, may we go with *them*, because God is with them: and like Moses, may we choose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season.

May we walk by faith, and not by sight. May we weigh both worlds, and may the future and the eternal preponderate. May this be our growing experience as well as profession — As for me, I will behold thy face in righteouness, I shall be satisfied when I awake with thy likeness.

By thy mercies we renew this morning the consecration of ourselves to thy service. Go forth with us into the con-

cerns of the day. Keep us in all our ways. Innumerable are our dangers; but the greatest of all is sin. Uphold our goings therefore in thy word, and let no iniquity have dominion over us. May we abstain from all appearance of evil; and the very God of peace sanctify us wholly: and may our whole spirit, and soul, and body, be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

And to God only wise, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be ascribed all honor and praise for ever and ever. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O God, thy greatness is unsearchable. Thy name is most excellent in all the earth. Thou hast set thy glory above the heavens. Thousands minister unto Thee, and ten thousand times ten thousand stand before Thee. We feel ourselves in thine awful presence to be nothing, less than nothing, and vanity: nor do we presume to approach Thee because we are deserving of thy notice — for we have sinned — we have incurred thy righteous displeasure — we acknowledge that Thou art justified when Thou speakest, and clear when Thou judgest.

But our necessities compel us, and thy promises encourage us. Thou art nigh unto them that are of a broken heart, and savest such as be of a contrite spirit. Thou hast provided and revealed a Mediator, who has not only obeyed but magnified the law and made it honorable; and Thou hast made us accepted in the beloved. And we behold an innumerable multitude returning from thy throne successful, rejoicing and encouraging us to go forward. *They* were not, though all guilt and indigence, refused nor upbraided; but freely obtained pardon and holiness

and righteousness and strength, and were blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.

O look Thou upon us, and be merciful unto us, as Thou usest to do unto those that love thy name! Convince us of sin both in its penalty and in its pollution, and may we mourn over it with a godly sorrow. Give us that faith by which we shall be enabled to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ; and believing may we have life through his name.

And may we not only have life, but have it more abundantly. We often question the reality of our grace; but the imperfections of our religion are too obvious not to be acknowledged, and too aggravated not to be deplored. Our souls cleave unto the dust; quicken Thou us according to thy word. Strengthen in us the things that are ready to die. May we not only live in the Spirit, but walk in the Spirit. By holy resemblances may we put on the Lord Jesus Christ: may the same mind be in us which was also in Him; and may we feel it to be our dignity and delight to go about doing good.

And as He suffered for us, leaving us an example that we should tread in his steps; may we learn to suffer like Him. When reviled, may we revile not again, but commit ourselves to Him that judgeth righteously. Whoever may be the instrument of our grief, may we never lose sight of an overruling agency in preparing and presenting it; but be able to say, The cup which my Father giveth me, shall I not drink it? In patience may we possess our souls. May we be calm to inquire, wherefore Thou contendest with us. Let not weeping hinder sowing; nor sorrow, duty.

We live in a world of changes, and have here no continuing city — may we seek one to come; and have our minds kept in perfect peace, being stayed upon God. Be with us to the end of our journey; and after honoring

Thee by the life we have lived, may we glorify Thee by the death we shall die. When heart and flesh fail, be Thou the strength of our heart, and our portion for ever. At death may we fall asleep in Jesus; and in the morning of the resurrection, may He change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like his own glorious body; and so may we be for ever with the Lord.

Who can understand his errors? Forgive, O God, the sins of the past day, in thought, word, and deed, against thy divine majesty. We bless Thee for our preservation in our going out and our coming in, and in all our ways: and we bless Thee for all the supplies and indulgences which thy good providence has afforded us.

And now, O Thou keeper of Israel, we commit our souls and our bodies to thy all-sufficient care. Suffer no evil to befal our persons, and no plague to come nigh our dwelling. May our sleep be sweet; or if Thou holdest our eyes waking, may we remember Thee upon our bed, and meditate on Thee in the night-watches.

And with the innumerable company who never slumber nor sleep, and who rest not day and night, we would join in ascribing blessing and honor and glory and power unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb, for ever and ever. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O Thou, whose name alone is Jehovah, the most high over all the earth! When we consider thy majesty and thy purity, and reflect upon our meanness and guilt, how shall we come before the Lord, or bow before the high God? We are unworthy of thy notice, and have rendered ourselves justly obnoxious to the curse of thy holy law:

and wert Thou to judge us according to our desert, the most innocent periods of our life, and the devoutest services in which we have ever been engaged, would make us shrink back with dread and despair from thy presence. But we are encouraged to approach Thee, by the revelation Thou hast given us of thyself as the Lord God gracious and merciful; the invitations and promises of thy word; and the mediation of thy dear Son. We are assured that He put away sin by the sacrifice of himself; and being raised from the dead, entered into the holy place, there to appear in the presence of God for us. We rejoice that we have now an Advocate with the Father to plead our cause, and a great High Priest over the house of God, to introduce our persons and our services.

May we therefore draw near in full assurance of faith, believing that all things are now ready; that we are as welcome as we are needy; and that the blessings we implore are as gracious as they are needful. Yea Thou delightest in mercy, and hast not only permitted, but commanded us to ask and receive that our joy may be full. O let us not refuse to be comforted; let us not reject the counsel of God against ourselves. Suffer us not, after provoking Thee by our rebellion, to offend Thee still more by our unbelief. May we honor thy goodness by our confidence in thy veracity, and come and take of the water of life freely. May we wait for no qualifications to entitle us to those provisions which must be bought without money and without price: but may we come as we are — guilty *to be* justified, unholy *to be* renewed, blind *to be* enlightened, weak *to be* strengthened, and indigent *to be* relieved and enriched. As Thou art presenting to us, in the offers of the gospel, thy unspeakable gift, may we receive Christ Jesus the Lord. May we receive Him immediately without delay, cordially without reluctance, and im-

partially without exception; feeling our need of, and acquiescing in all his offices, relations, influences, and blessings.

As Thou art well pleased *in* thy beloved Son, may it appear that we are well pleased *with* Him. May we love his salvation, and glory in his cross; may we admire his character, and pant after his likeness. May we judge of our union with Him, by our being new creatures; and of our freedom from all condemnation, by our walking not after the flesh but after the Spirit. May we try our principles by our practice, and our faith by our works. May the origin and certainty of our hope appear in its tendency; may it purify us from sin, wean us from the world, and cause us to live with our conversation in heaven.

Blessed with a well founded persuasion that when He who is our life shall appear, we shall also appear with Him in glory, may we bear with patience the trials attached to this present time, and weep as if we wept not. And knowing our obligation to thy grace, which has delivered our souls from the lowest hell, and is infallibly conducting us to such a vastness of felicity, may we be principally concerned to walk before the Lord in the land of the living, and to show forth all his praise. Whether therefore we eat or drink, or whatever we do, may we do all to the glory of God.

But we cannot trust in our own hearts: we dare not rely upon our convictions and purposes — they have often betrayed us. We can only serve Thee in thy own strength. We can walk no further than Thou leadest us; we can stand no longer than Thou holdest us. We therefore renounce self-dependence; and desire to be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. Let thy grace be sufficient for us in the duties and events of the day into which we have entered. May we abide with God in our

respective callings. Whether we are alone, or in company, may we be anxious to gain good, and to do good. May we be serious without gloom, and cheerful without levity, and use the world as not abusing it.

And now unto Him that is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy; to the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O God; the day is thine; the night also is thine. Thou makest the outgoings of the morning and evening to rejoice. The heavens declare thy glory; the earth is full of thy riches, and so is the great and wide sea. Thou art the maker, and sustainer, and proprietor of all things. We are the creatures of thy power, and the beneficiaries of thy bounty. But we have sinned against heaven and before Thee, and are not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth which Thou hast showed us. We are of those that rebel against the light; for we have resisted the dictates of our consciences; the demands of thy law; the admonitions of thy providence; and the calls of the gospel of peace. We have made light of those things which angels desire to look into; we have neglected thy great salvation; and we deserve that thy wrath should come upon us as the children of disobedience.

Yet we are in the land of the living and under a dispensation of hope. We flee for refuge to that dear Savior who said, Deliver from going down into the pit, I have found a ransom; and who himself bore our sin in his own body on the tree. O that we may be found in Him, and

know the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death. May we not only be justified by his blood and saved from wrath through Him; but may we derive from Him an influence that shall subdue our iniquities, and change us into his own image, from glory to glory, as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Deliver us, we pray Thee, from the views and dispositions of men of the world who have their portion in this life. May we never look for that on earth, which can only be found in heaven. Born from above and bound for glory, may we feel the heart of a stranger, and pass the time of our sojourning here in fear. Reminded,—and O how often are we reminded!—that here we have no continuing city, may we seek one to come; and in all the changing scenes of time, know in ourselves that in heaven we have a better and an enduring substance.

In our journeyings through a vale of tears, cast us not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from us. Be Thou always within sight or within call—for how often shall we have to address Thee! To thy wisdom we must repair for direction, or we shall every moment go astray. Thy power is our only safety. O Thou that savest by thy right hand them that put their trust in Thee, from those that rise up against them, keep us as the apple of thine eye, and hide us under the shadow of thy wing. Be Thou our strength in weakness and our victory in conflict. We dare not say, we never *will* deny Thee—but O grant that we never may. Establish our hearts with grace, and deliver our feet from falling; and may we be sincere and without offence until the day of Christ.

These are great blessings for us to ask—but we are undone forever without them—and Thou hast encouraged

us to hope. We plead thy command and thy promise — 'Ask and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you.' No suppliant, however unworthy or guilty, was ever rejected or insulted at thy footstool. And we come in the name of Him who made intercession for the transgressors. Him Thou hearest always — and to Him, with the Father, and the Holy Spirit, be praises forever and ever. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.

O God, Thou art great and greatly to be feared. And Thou art also merciful and gracious; long-suffering and abundant in goodness and in truth. May we so feel our sinfulness as to be humbled in the dust before Thee, and filled with self-condemnation and self-despair; but let us not shrink back from thy presence, and be afraid to place our faith and hope in the God of love. Help us to remember, that if we have no claim on the footing of desert, we can plead thy promise and invitation; and that if the blessings we want are infinitely great, they are dispensed as gifts whose freeness delights in the unworthiness of the receiver.

We therefore would neither deny nor palliate our guilt. We know there is evil enough in one sin to plunge us into perdition; but our offences are more in number than the sand; and they have been attended with every aggravation, derivable from light and love, means and mercies. Thou hast called, and we have refused; Thou hast stretched out thy hand, and we have not regarded. How often hast Thou wooed and awed, blessed and chastised us — and yet we refused to return. O Lord, pardon our iniquity, for it is great. Let the free gift be of many of-

fences unto justification of life; and where sin has abounded may grace much more abound.

And as we cannot serve or enjoy Thee unless our nature be changed as well as our state, O save us by the washing of regeneration, and by the renewing of the Holy Ghost. Deliver us from the dominion as well as the curse of sin; and from the love of it as well as the dominion. May we reckon ourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. May we view holiness as the beauty and the dignity of the soul, and long after greater degrees of conformity to the will and the image of God. May our hope purify us; and our religious comforts stimulate as well as relieve. May we never slumber, and like the pilgrim lose our roll; never sleep, and like Saul be robbed of our spear and our cruse. May we watch and pray lest we enter into temptation. When we grow indolent and careless, awaken us by lively apprehensions of thy presence, and of the eternal world, on the borders of which we perpetually move; may we feel the infinite importance of improving the few transient periods intervening between us and death; may we daily and hourly answer some of the grand purposes of life and religion. May every place and every company be the better for us. May we diffuse knowledge and happiness by our conversation, example, and influence; and like our Lord and Savior, go about doing good.

Whatever advantages we possess, may we never forget that this is not our rest. May we arise and depart hence, not by quitting our stations, or undervaluing the duties attached to them, but by rising above the world as our portion, setting our affections on things above, and having our conversation in heaven. Expecting a succession of encounters in passing through an enemy's land, may we take to us the whole armor of God: and looking for thorns

and briers in our marchings through a wilderness, may our feet be shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.

Fit us for every changing scene; and in all the events that would alarm or perplex us, may our minds be stayed upon God, and our thoughts be established. May we remember that trials from thy hand are blessings in disguise, and that when they come to be unveiled, and we can view them in their designs and effects, they will draw forth our gratitude and praise. Till we can walk by sight, enable us to walk by faith; and may nothing weaken our persuasion, that all thy ways are mercy and truth to thy people; and that all things work together for good to them that love Thee.

We would not forget those that are in affliction. Do not Thou, O God, forget them. Whatever be their losses or distresses, help them to say, Yet the Lord thinketh upon me. May they know that thy thoughts towards them are thoughts of peace and not of evil, to bring them to an expected end, though it may be by a painful passage. Comfort those who are on beds of languishing. Enter the house of mourning. Be the father of the fatherless, and the husband of the widow, and the friend and helper of the poor and needy—and have mercy upon all men.

Our Father, &c.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O God, Thou art glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, continually doing wonders. And it is not one of the least of thy wonderful works that we are yet on this side an awful eternity, and not reaping the due reward of our deeds. We look on each other this evening with aston-

ishment, and exclaim, It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed. Our whole life has been a scene of provocation against thy divine majesty; and if we, with all our ignorance and self-love, can see so much depravity in ourselves, what must have presented itself to *thy* view, O Thou, who knowest all things, in whose sight the very heavens are not clean, and who seest more pollution even in our duties than we ever found in our sins! There is no health in us. We have no works or worthiness to excite thy regard; and if ever we are saved, it must be according to thy own purpose and grace, given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.

We come to Thee in the dear name of Him who loved us and gave Himself for us; who magnified the law and made it honorable; who put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself; and now ever liveth to make intercession for us. This foundation Thou thyself hast laid in Zion, and thy word assures us, that whosoever believeth on Him shall not be confounded. We hope our dependence upon Him is not a vain reliance, because we love his service as well as his sacrifice, and long to wear his image as well as to be justified by his blood. We hope we are willing to deny ourselves, and take up our cross and follow Him — in the regeneration — and whithersoever He goeth.

O make us partakers of that salvation which is designed to deliver us from our sins, and to bring us into the glorious liberty of the children of God. Put thy laws into our minds, and write them in our hearts. Render our obedience to thy will holily natural and delightful to us. Rectify all our principles, and give us clear and consistent and influential views of divine truth. May we never undervalue or neglect any part of thy revealed will; but regard the practice the gospel enjoins, as well as the doctrine it exhibits; prize its commands as well as its

promises; and cultivate such a disposition as will render every religious duty a spiritual privilege.

Sanctify us in every relation, office, transaction, and condition in life. Keep us if we prosper from being exalted above measure; and if exercised with adversity, suffer us not to be swallowed up of over-much sorrow. May divine grace preserve the balance of the mind in all our varying circumstances, and teach us, in whatsoever state we are, not only to be content, but to glorify God, and be an edifying example to those around us.

May we always be principally concerned for soul-prosperity, and be willing to submit to any means, however trying, that thy wisdom shall judge necessary to promote and secure it. May we so pass through things temporal as not to miss those that are eternal at last, or to lose sight of them for a moment now. Too long have our feet and our hands been in the mire: O disengage us, purify us, elevate us; our souls cleave unto the dust, quicken Thou us according to thy word. May none of thy mercies be lost upon us; but may they prove the means of exciting our gratitude, warming our devotion, and encouraging our confidence. May none of our trials be unimproved — may all embitter sin, wean us from the world, and endear to us the scriptures, the throne of grace, and the sympathy of that Almighty friend who is touched with the feeling of our infirmities.

Let none of our religious opportunities be unsanctified; may we be thankful for the frequency of their recurrence; may we gladly avail ourselves of them; and instead of resting in the mere outward performance, may we be concerned to worship Thee in spirit and in truth, and to obtain from thy word all the benefits it is intended and adapted to afford.

For this purpose, we implore thy blessing on the solem-

nities of the Sabbath which is so soon to open upon us. May we in the morning awake with Thee, and begin, go through, and end the day, in thy faith, fear, and love. May we have satisfactory evidence in our own minds, that we do not wait upon Thee in vain; and may our profiting appear unto all men.

And thus by all the discipline of thy family, and the ordinances of thy house, may we grow in grace, and in our meetness for the inheritance of the saints in light. And when the evening of life itself shall arrive, and we are called to retreat from every mortal care, may we close the period of toil and trouble by falling asleep in Jesus, and open our eyes on the rest that remains for the people of God, and enter the temple above, to go no more out. And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with us all, now and forever. Amen.

SECOND WEEK.

SUNDAY MORNING.

O Thou King eternal, immortal, invisible, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto, and whom no man hath seen or can see. Thou art incomprehensible, and the highest archangel cannot find Thee out unto perfection. Yet Thou hast been pleased to reveal thyself; and by means of thy word we behold Thee in every character and relation that can suit our necessities, or encourage our hope. Thy throne is in the heavens, and thy kingdom ruleth over all; and all nations before Thee are as nothing; yet Thou condescendest to regard the things that are done in the earth, and despisest not the prayer even of the destitute. Thou art exalted above all blessing and praise: our goodness extendeth not to Thee — but unless thine be extended to us, we are undone for ever. Without Thee we can do nothing; we *are* nothing. In Thee we live and move and have our being. The way of man is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps. We are universally indigent and dependent; but as Thou art able, so Thou art willing to take the charge of us: and here we are the living to praise Thee, and to acknowledge that goodness and mercy have followed us all the days of our lives.

We bless Thee that Thou hast regarded our souls as well as our bodies, and no less provided for our future interests than our present. When there was no eye to pity us, Thou didst remember us in our low estate: and when

there was no arm to rescue, Thou wast pleased to lay help on one that is mighty. Thou hast sent thy own Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. To Him may we turn our believing regards, and find in him the wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption, which as perishing sinners we need. In all our approaches to Thee may we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of Him. May we know that He has borne our grief and carried our sorrow; and be able to rejoice in Him as our sacrifice, our sympathizing friend, our almighty helper, and our lovely example. May we drink into his spirit. May we transcribe the excellencies of his character into our own. May we place our feet in the very prints of his steps, and follow Him in the regeneration, till we shall be perfectly like Him, and see Him as He is.

We desire to acknowledge Thee in the dispensations of thy providence; and to own thy agency in all the events that befal us, whether pleasing or painful. Thou hast a right to govern us; and Thou knowest what will best advance our welfare. May we commit our way unto the Lord, and be able to say at thy footstool in unfeigned submission, Here I am, let Him do what seemeth Him good. If darkness veil thy dealings with us, may we trust and not be afraid; believing that what we know not now we shall know hereafter, and that the development of thy conduct will issue in perfect satisfaction and praise.

We bless Thee for the institutions of religion, in the use of which Thou hast promised to draw near to those who draw near to Thee. We rejoice in another of the days of the Son of man. May we call off our minds from the cares of the world, and attend upon the Lord without distraction. Quicken and elevate our souls, that rising above the formality of devotion, we may come even to thy seat, and en-

joy a little of the blessedness of those that have entered the temple above, and are singing the song of Moses and the Lamb. We are going to assemble in the house of prayer — pour upon us the spirit of grace and of supplication, and rank us in the number of those who hunger and thirst after righteousness. We are going to the house of praise — awaken in us every grateful and cheerful emotion, and may we speak to ourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in our hearts unto the Lord. We are repairing to the house of instruction — enable us to receive the kingdom of God as a little child. Teach us of thy ways. Lead us into all truth. And let us be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

For this purpose, let thy presence go with us; and let thy word come to us, not in word only, but in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance. Bless all the churches of the faithful, and the ministers of the everlasting gospel, of every name, and of every nation. Clothe thy priests with salvation, and let thy saints shout aloud for joy. Remember our country in all its lawful interests, domestic and foreign. Bless the President of the United States, and all that are in authority. May they rule in thy fear, and be guided by thy counsel; and may the people lead quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and honesty. Make us glad according to the days wherein Thou hast afflicted us, and the years wherein we have seen evil. Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children, and let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us. Establish Thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish Thou it.

Our Father, &c.

SUNDAY EVENING.

When we consider the heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars which Thou hast ordained, Lord, what is man that Thou art mindful of him, or the son of man that Thou visitest him. In thy sight the heavens are not clean; and Thou chargest thine angels with folly — With what truth therefore *may* we, and with what humiliation *ought* we to exclaim, Behold we are vile!

And yet, we believe — help Thou our unbelief — that Thou waitest to be gracious unto us, and art exalted to have mercy upon us. And Christ also has once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us unto God. Through his obedience unto death, even the death of the cross, it is honorable in Thee to save all that come unto Thee by Him; and Thou art faithful and just, as well as gracious and merciful, in forgiving us our sins, and in cleansing us from all unrighteousness.

We bless thy holy name, for a foundation on which the guilty, the depraved, and the helpless, can build a hope that maketh not ashamed; for a refuge from the curse of a broken law; for a fountain opened for sin and uncleanness; and for a fulness from which we can receive, and grace for grace. We want to appropriate and realize all the representations given of the Savior in thy word; and to find him to be in our own experience, what thy people have found him to be in all ages of the world. May our persons and our services be accepted in the beloved. May we be justified freely by thy grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. May we be saved by the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Ghost. We are weary and heavy-laden — give us rest. We are depraved in all our powers — work in us to will and to do of

thy good pleasure. We are ignorant — fill us with the knowledge of thy will, in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, that we may approve things that are excellent, and be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ.

Many eyes are upon us — lead us in a plain path because of our enemies. Many watch for our halting — but may we put to silence the ignorance of foolish men, and constrain them by our good works, which they behold, to glorify God in the day of visitation.

Some did run well, but are hindered; they began in the spirit, but are now walking in the flesh. We tremble for them, and we tremble for ourselves; we pray for them, and we pray for ourselves. Recover and restore them, and keep us by thy power through faith unto salvation. May we never draw back; never turn aside to the right hand or to the left; never stand still; never look back; never seem to come short through unbelief, but be always abounding in the work of the Lord — and so much the more as we see the day approaching.

Though we are ignorant of the future, and know not what a day may bring forth, keep us from being of a doubtful mind. May we be careful for nothing. May we go on our way rejoicing, persuaded that all thy dispensations are designed and adapted to prove that Thou carest for us.

We can even now see much of thy wisdom, righteousness, and kindness, in events that once perplexed and alarmed us; and what we know not now we shall know hereafter. Soon the mystery of providence will be completed and explained. Soon shall we have passed these dark and mournful regions; and then our sun shall no more go down, nor our moon withdraw herself; for God shall be our everlasting light, and the days of our mourning shall be ended.

And till we arrive at heaven our home, may we gratefully avail ourselves of all the advantages afforded us in our journey. We bless Thee for wilderness privileges; for the manna; the streams of the smitten rock; the fiery cloudy pillar; the tabernacle, and the ark. We bless Thee for the sabbath, the sanctuary, and the ministry of the word. We bless Thee for the opportunities we have this day enjoyed in waiting upon Thee. Many who love thy salvation have passed the sacred hours in solitude. Many have had no means of grace to invite their attendance. And many who have been assembled together have not heard the gospel of the grace of God in truth. O let not our privileges increase our guilt, and aggravate our condemnation, so that it shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for us. Let not the truths we have been hearing visit us only as weekly guests; but may they be residents in our hearts. May the word of Christ dwell in us richly in all wisdom. And though the exercises in which we have been engaged are transient, may the effects produced by them be deep and durable; may the sabbath pervade the week, and the spirit of devotion actuate us in the absence of its forms; whether we eat, or drink, or whatever we do, may we do all to the glory of God.

Bless, O bless, the rising generation, the sources of future families and communities. When the clods of the valley shall be sweet about us, may they be found a seed to serve Thee. Many of them have had the advantage of religious education; they have seen pious examples; they early kneeled at the domestic altar; from infancy they knew the holy scriptures, and have often been alarmed, often melted under the word preached; and frequently have they been ready to subscribe with their own hand, and surname themselves by the name of Israel. O let not

these promising appearances and beginnings be destroyed. O let not the wild beast out of the wood carry off the lambs of the flock, but may the Shepherd of Israel gather them with his arm and carry them in his bosom.

Regard all thy professing churches. Bless them with soundness of doctrine, purity and liberality of discipline, and sanctity and amiableness of character in their members: and the Lord add to his people, how many soever they be, an hundred fold. Yea, let a little one become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation; and all the families of the earth be blessed in *Him* — who is all our salvation and all our desire — to whom be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.

O Thou King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, who only hast immortality, we would adore Thee, and take shame to ourselves; and though allowed to approach thy divine majesty, we would never forget the sentiments of humiliation and contrition, which become such creatures as we are. Father, we have sinned against heaven and in thy sight, and are not worthy to be called thy children: we are not worthy of the least of all thy mercies. Yea, we have merited thy displeasure; and thy righteousness would be completely acquitted in our destruction.

O for hearts of flesh! Lord produce in us that sensibility of soul which will lead us to feel our vileness, to deplore our guilt, and to cast ourselves at thy feet, abhorring ourselves, and repenting in dust and ashes. And impart to us that faith which will enable us to hope in thy word, and derive strong consolation from the invitations and promises of the gospel. We are come to implore the

greatest blessings the God of love can give; but our application is not presumption: we are come to call Thee Abba, Father! to enter thy house, to sit down at thy table, to lean on thy arm, to walk with God; but we are not come unbidden or uncalled: Thou hast called us by thy grace; and it is thy commandment that we should believe on the name of thy Son Jesus Christ. Lord, we assent, we submit, we depend, we apply. Since He came into the world to save sinners, we take Him as *our* Savior; and glory in Him as made of Thee to us wisdom and righteousness, sanctification and redemption.

And O, let our minds be fixed and filled with admiring thoughts of his person and offices; let our hearts be inflamed with a sense of his boundless compassion and love. By the new and living way, which He has not only revealed but consecrated for us, may we come to Thee, and enjoy all the advantages of a state of reconciliation and friendship with God. May the most open and familiar intercourse be maintained between Thee and our souls. To Thee may we commit our way and our works, and in every thing by prayer and supplication make known our requests unto God. Be Thou always near, to guide us and to defend; to relieve us in trouble, and to help us in duty. And may we walk humbly with our God; wondering at the condescension that deigns to regard our mean affairs, the patience that bears with our manners, and the kindness that employs so many means to advance our everlasting welfare.

We grieve to think that a world so full of thy bounty should be so empty of thy praise. O that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men. Bless the Lord, all his works; in all places of his dominion, bless the Lord, O my soul!

Again thy visitation hath preserved our spirits. Through the dark and silent watches of the night thou hast suffered no evil to befal us, nor any plague to come nigh our dwelling. And we are not only the living to praise Thee this morning, but the distinguished and the indulged. Many who have seen the light of the day as well as ourselves, are encompassed with want, and pain, and wretchedness, but we have all things richly to enjoy.

Thou takest pleasure in the prosperity of thy servants: may we always take pleasure in the advancement of thy glory. Thou art never weary in doing us good: may we never grow weary in well doing. Thy mercies are new every morning: every morning, by thy mercies, may we present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable, which is our reasonable service.

And to the God of our salvation, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be ascribed the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.

O Thou, in whose presence angels bow and archangels veil their faces, enable us to serve Thee with reverence and godly fear. O Thou, who art a spirit, and requirest truth in the inward parts, help us to worship Thee in spirit and in truth. O righteous Father, we would not come to Thee harboring the love of any sin in our bosoms; for Thou has assured us, that if we regard iniquity in our hearts Thou wilt not hear us. We must address Thee as sinners; but we acknowledge our transgression, and our sin is ever before us; we desire to have nothing more to do with idols; we hate every false way; and long to be Israelites indeed in whom is no guile.

Nor would we, O God, appear in thy presence indulging a worldly temper, and seeking after an abundance of those things that afford no satisfaction in the possession, and perish in the using. After all these things do the Gentiles seek, and our heavenly Father knoweth what things we have need of before we ask Him, and will administer them as our wants and welfare may require. We are hastening towards an hour which will show us the vanity of all earthly pursuits and possessions. When a few more suns have rolled over us, it will be a matter of indifference whether we have been rich or poor; successful or disappointed in our enterprises; admired of our fellow creatures, or despised! But it will be of eternal moment to us, that we have mourned for sin; that we have hungered and thirsted after righteousness; that we have loved the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity, and gloried in his cross.

May these objects therefore, however despised of men, engross our chief solicitude. May we labor for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life; may we lay up treasure in heaven; may we seek the honor that cometh from God only. O remember us with the favor Thou bearest unto thy people, and visit us with thy salvation. Deliver us from the condemnation of the law, and the bondage of corruption, and bring us into the glorious liberty of the children of God. Justify us freely from all things, and renew us in the spirit of our minds. Produce in us those principles and dispositions which will render thy service perfect freedom, and make it our meat to do the will of our heavenly Father, and to finish his work.

Expel from our minds all sinful fear and shame, and with firmness and courage may we confess the Redeemer before men, and go forth to Him without the camp bearing his reproach. And may our zeal be according to

knowledge. Fill us with all wisdom and spiritual understanding. May we walk circumspectly. May we never take a wrong course or a wrong step. May we venture on nothing without asking counsel of God. Without prejudice may we repair to the scriptures, and kneeling before the divine oracles ask, Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do? May we faithfully study our conditions and connexions in life, and observe every dispensation of thy providence, that we may see how we can honor Thee in our body and spirit, and serve our generation according to the will of God.

Thou hast commanded us to be pitiful and to pray for all men. We would remember that every moment of pleasure to us is a moment of anguish to some; and that while our health and our relative comforts are continued, many are confined to beds of languishing, or sighing, Lover and friend hast Thou put far from me, and mine acquaintance into darkness. In the multitude of their thoughts within them, may thy comforts delight their souls. If not in the suffering, yet in the review of their trials, may they be able to say, It is good for me that I have been afflicted. Let not the prosperity of the successful destroy them, nor the table of the indulged prove a snare. In every state may the voice be heard and obeyed, Arise and depart hence, for this is not your rest.

We know not what a day may bring forth; yet we would not be anxious in prospect of the future, nor perplex ourselves with that care about events which it is our duty and privilege to cast upon Him who careth for us. We would keep our minds in perfect peace, being stayed upon Thee. Only assure us that nothing can befal us without thy permission, appointment, and administration; only assure us that Thou hast engaged to make all things work together for our good; only say to our hearts, I will

never leave Thee nor forsake Thee. Guide us with thy counsel, and afterward receive us to glory. We implore it in the name of our only Lord and Savior. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O Thou God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob; the God of all the righteous, and of all that hunger and thirst after righteousness: blessed are the people that are in such a case, yea, happy is the people whose God is the Lord. May we be fellow heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of thy promise in Christ by the gospel.

We hope in thy word. There we see Thee, not on a throne of judgment, whose terror would make us afraid, but on a throne of grace, waiting to be gracious, and exalted to have mercy. There we hear Thee saying, not—Depart ye cursed into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels, but—Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth, for I am God and there is none else. They that know thy name will put their trust in Thee, for Thou Lord hast not forsaken them that seek Thee. How many glorified in heaven, and what numbers now living on earth, are thy witnesses, O God, exemplifying in their recovery from the ruins of the fall, the freeness and riches and efficacy of thy grace. All that were ever saved were saved by Thee, and will through eternity exclaim, Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but to thy name give glory, for thy mercy and for thy truth's sake. And after all thy communications, Thou art the same Lord over all, and rich unto all that call upon Thee. Thou hast the same ear to hear, the same heart to pity, the same hand to deliver.

But Thou hast chosen to transact all thy concerns with

us through a Mediator. In Him it hath pleased Thee that all fulness should dwell. Him Thou hast exalted at thy own right hand, to be a Prince and a Savior, to give repentance unto Israel and remission of sins.

To Him therefore may we look; on Him may we entirely depend; and in Him, with all the seed of Israel, may we be justified and glory. May we know how to derive relief from his sufferings, without losing any of our abhorrence of sin or longing after holiness. May we feel the double efficiency of his blood, in tranquillizing our consciences and cleansing them: may we delight in his service as well as his sacrifice; and under the constrainings of a love that passeth knowledge, may we live, not to ourselves, but to Him that died for us and rose again.

In all our approaches to Thee may we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of Him. Give us much of the spirit of grace and of supplication. By a constant readiness for the duty, and a frequent performance of it, may we pray without ceasing; and by guarding against every discouragement, may we pray and not faint.

May we cherish a grateful and cheerful disposition; not murmuring and repining because all our wishes are not indulged, or because some trials are blended with our enjoyments; but sensible of our desert, and impressed with the number and greatness of thy benefits, may we bless the Lord at all times, and may his praise continually be in our mouth. And may our gratitude be real and practical, and increasing with our obligations. Enable us to inquire, Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do? Enable us to resolve, I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living; enable us to pray, O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes.

We commend to thy pity and thy power all those who are any way afflicted in mind, body, or estate. May the

young find it good to bear the yoke in their youth; may they that know Thee not, be chosen in the furnace of affliction; and may thy own people find Thee a very present help in trouble. Be favorable to our land. Let those that are at the helm of public affairs be men of understanding, and know what Israel ought to do. May our magistrates be men fearing God and hating covetousness: make our officers peace, and our exactors righteousness. Let not oppression be ever seen on the side of judgment, nor a perverse spirit be mingled in the midst of the people. Let glory dwell in our land, and upon all the glory may there be a defence. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with us all forever. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.

O Thou that hearest prayer, unto Thee shall all flesh come. Lord, teach us to pray. We have reason to fear that the language of our lips and the feelings of our hearts, in our religious exercises, have not always agreed. We have frequently taken carelessly upon our tongues a name never pronounced above without the deepest reverence and humility. We have often desired things which would have proved our injury; and we have deprecated things which have proved some of our chief mercies. We have erred, both on the side of our hopes and fears; we are unfit to choose for ourselves; we are convinced that the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps. We know not what to pray for as we ought; let thy Spirit help our infirmities, and produce in us those views and dispositions which will lead us to ask according to thy will, and then we know Thou hearest us.

With regard to temporal blessings, may we never be importunate: may we always refer them to thy fatherly goodness; for Thou knowest that we have need of these things before we ask Thee — but may we seek first in time and attention thy kingdom and righteousness. May we value things by their relation to eternity. May we never think we prosper, unless our souls prosper; that we are rich, unless we are rich toward God; that we are wise, unless we are made wise unto salvation. May our spiritual and everlasting welfare be our chief solicitude, and may we be conscious to ourselves, that we would rather be poor and afflicted and despised, if blessed with much of the life of God in our souls, than to be admired by our fellow-men, and be successful in our enterprises, and have more than heart can wish — if these things should prove the means of our forgetfulness of God.

Having found this world to be dreams and lies, vanity and vexation of spirit, may we arise and depart from it; may we seek our happiness in thy favor and image and presence and service. And though we are unworthy to be regarded by Thee, especially after we have so often refused Thee, receive us graciously; justify our persons; renovate our nature; and put thy laws into our minds and write them in our hears; and be Thou to us a God, and may we be to Thee a people. Endear to us that Savior whose unexampled love led Him to suffer the just for the unjust, that He might bring us unto God. May we never dare to think of coming to Thee in any other way; but may we always have boldness and access with confidence, by the faith of Him: yea, may we joy in God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement; and not only so, but may we glory in tribulation also, knowing that tribulation worketh patience, and patience experience, and experience hope.

For, blessed be thy name, we live not in a fatherless world; nor are our minutest affairs forgotten before God. The hairs of our head are all numbered. Our losses and trials are not the effects of chance, but events in which thy wisdom and mercy are now concerned and will be hereafter displayed. We know that all things work together for good to them that love Thee: may our character, therefore, and not our condition, be the object of our anxiety. May we ascertain that our heart is right with Thee, and be careful for nothing. Having given ourselves unto the Lord, may we remember that we have a right from thy holy word to depend upon Thee to provide for us and to manage all our concerns even to the end.

Discharged from the toil and the torment of care, may we feel ourselves at liberty to enjoy the advantages and comforts of our condition in life, and above all to pursue our work as christians. May we be attentive to duty: may we inquire how we can best promote the welfare of the human race, and glorify Thee in our body and spirit. May holiness to the Lord be inscribed upon all our time and talents and substance. May the inquiry of our grateful hearts every moment be, What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits towards me?

Thou hast made the outgoings of another morning and evening to rejoice. Thou hast crowned the day with thy goodness. Let the night witness thy care and kindness: and may we enter on another portion of our time, not only under fresh obligations, but with new desires and resolutions to be forever thine.

Our Father, &c. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O Thou Most High! enable us to feel and to express becoming regards towards Thee as the Creator of the ends of the earth, the Preserver of men, the Governor of the universe, the Judge of all, the Savior of sinners. Thy greatness is unsearchable, but thy goodness also is infinite. It is because thy compassions fail not that we are not consumed. Thou has not only prolonged our unworthy lives under numberless provocations, but Thou hast afforded us every needful supply and indulgence. Thy mercies have been new every morning and every moment. Through thy good hand upon us, we have been rescued from the perils of another night; our repose has been unterrified and undisturbed; sleep has refreshed our bodies and renewed our strength; and we find ourselves surrounded at the commencement of another day with all our accustomed privileges.

But, O God, we can never be sufficiently thankful that we have our existence in a christian country, and where we can hear words by which we may be saved. O how important, how suitable, how encouraging, are the discoveries, the doctrines, the promises, the invitations of the gospel of peace. We are lost; but here is presented to us a free, full, and everlasting salvation. We are left without strength; but here we learn that help is laid on One that is mighty. We are poor and needy; but here we behold the unsearchable riches of Christ. We are blind and ignorant; but in Him are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. We thank Thee, O God, for thine unspeakable gift, and we cordially accept of thy mercy extended to us through the mediation of thy dear Son. We rejoice that he has been delivered for our offences and raised again for our justification; and that He is now ex-

alted at thy own right hand to be a Prince and a Savior. We abandon every other refuge to hide in, and every other foundation to build upon; and make Him our only hope and our only confidence. And while we depend on his death, and make mention of his righteousness only, we admire his example, and desire to be conformed to his image. May we put on the Lord Jesus Christ by holy and accurate imitations, and increasingly resemble Him whose life was beneficence, whose soul was meekness and humility, who pleased not himself; and who, of obedience the most trying and difficult, could say, I delight to do thy will, O my God, yea, thy law is within my heart. May his glory fill our minds; may his love reign in our affections; and at his cross and at his tomb may we burn with ardor to live, not to ourselves, but to Him that died for us and rose again.

Let the number of his followers daily increase; and may none of our friends be found among his enemies. Pour thy blessing upon our seed, and thy Spirit upon our offspring. Let our sons be as plants grown up in their youth, and our daughters as corner stones polished after the similitude of a palace. May our domestics be the servants of God; may they do his will from the heart, and be prepared for that world where those who serve will be as those who are served, and all the distinctions now necessary will be done away, and none remain but those which arise from character. And whatever be our conditions in life, may we fill them as christians; may we escape the snares to which they expose us; discharge the duties that grow out of their circumstances; enjoy with moderation and gratitude their advantages, and improve with decision and diligence their opportunities and resources of usefulness. May every place and every company in which we are found be benefited by us.

And whatever may be the opinion of our fellow creatures concerning us, may we be satisfied and happy in having the testimony that we please God.

We are now going forth into the concerns of another day. Take us under thy protection and influence. Guide us in all our steps. Enable us to realize thy presence and thy providence. Succeed us in all our lawful endeavors, or prepare us for disappointment; and assure us that we are in the number of those to whom all things are working together for good; and who will forever acknowledge, Marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true all thy ways, O Thou King of saints! Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

God over all, blessed forevermore! We desire to acknowledge thy Being and agency, to adore thy perfections, and to admire the works of thy hands. Thou hast made summer and winter. Thou hast appointed the moon for seasons, and the sun knoweth his going down. The day is thine; the night also is thine; and thou makest the outgoings of the morning and evening to rejoice. To that throne, from which none were ever repulsed or sent empty away, we again approach for mercy and grace to help in time of need. Let our prayer come before Thee as incense, and the lifting up of our hands as the evening sacrifice. Preserve us from formality in these exercises in which we so daily engage; and alarm our fears lest we should provoke Thee to say, In vain do they worship me.

For this purpose, enable us to realize thine all-seeing eye; to remember with *whom* we have to do, and *what* we have to do with Him. May we deeply feel the guilt of the sins we confess, and hunger and thirst after the blessings we implore. And while we review the numberless bless-

ings we have received from thy hands, may we be more than ever sensible of our unworthiness, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we may be disposed to show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to thy service, and walking before Thee in holiness and righteousness all our days.

He that is our God is the God of salvation, and unto God the Lord belong the issues from death. We bless Thee this evening as the preserver of men. Another day has been added, by thy good providence, to the season of thy long suffering, and the time of our preparation for eternity. We lament that the design of our being placed and continued here has been so imperfectly subserved, that in so many things we have offended, and in all come short of the glory of God. If where much is given much will be required, and the servant who knew his Lord's will and did it not, shall be beaten with many stripes — O Lord, if Thou shouldst mark *our* iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? We cannot answer Thee for one of a thousand of our transgressions: the review of a single day is enough to plunge us into despair — our only relief is, that there is forgiveness with Thee, and that with Thee there is plenteous redemption.

But while we hope in thy mercy we would not abuse it. We would not sin that grace may abound, or be evil because Thou art good. But since Thou art good and ready to forgive, we would the more ingenuously grieve that ever we have offended a Being so worthy of our devotedness, and be the more concerned in future to walk so as to please Thee.

Create in us a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within us. Set a watch, O God, upon our mouth; keep the door of our lips. And in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by thy grace, may we

have our conversation in the world, and in the church, and in the family.

We again commend ourselves to thy care. As Thou hast been through the day our sun and our shield, be Thou through the night our shade and our shield. Undisturbed by anxieties, unalarmed by fears, undistressed by pain or indisposition, may we retire and enjoy repose. Remind us, by putting off our garments and lying down to sleep, of putting off the body, and sleeping in the grave, the house appointed for all living. Prepare us for the night of death, the morning of the resurrection, and the day of judgment.

And all we implore is through the mediation of Him who bore the sins of many, and made intercession for the transgressors, to whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, be endless praises. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.

We would address Thee, O God, in the language of the publican, which so well becomes us, and say, from our hearts, God be merciful to me a sinner. Sinners we are by nature and practice; sinners thy word proclaims us to be; sinners we hope we feel ourselves to be; and acknowledge that Thou art justified when Thou speakest, and clear when Thou judgest.

Yet Thou hast not left us to despair; nor have we a mere peradventure to encourage us — who can tell if God will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him that we perish not? We have all the assurance we could desire, that with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him plenteous redemption. Conscious of the number and heinousness of our offences, we could not have approached

Thee with confidence without a previous token for good. But Thou hast stretched forth the golden sceptre, and said, Touch and live: I will be merciful to thy unrighteousness, and thy sins and iniquities will I remember no more. May we encourage ourselves by a sense of thy all-sufficiency, by faith in thy promises, by views of the experience of others; and ask and receive, that our joy may be full. To that dear refuge in which so many have been sheltered from every storm, may we repair; and in that fountain for sin, always open and free for all, may we be cleansed from every defilement.

Lord, we believe — help Thou our unbelief — that sin is exceeding sinful; it is the abominable thing which thy soul hateth; and this, and this alone, separates between Thee and us. Thou canst not contradict the essential perfections of thy nature; and Thou canst not make us happy *with* thyself, till Thou hast made us holy *like* thyself. O Thou holy God, deliver us from all our iniquities, and make us such creatures as Thou canst take pleasure in, and such creatures as can take pleasure in Thee. While many are asking, Who will show us any good? may the cry of our heart be, Lord, lift Thou up the light of thy countenance upon us. May we consent to the law of God that it is good; may we delight in thy law after the inner man. May we never complain of the strictness of thy demands, but morn over our want of conformity to them. May we esteem all thy commandments concerning all things to be right, and hate every false way. Put thy Spirit within us, that our practice may spring from principle, and our dispositions be congenial with duty; so that we may resemble Him who could say, My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish his work.

We live in a world of changes; but with Thee there is no variableness, nor shadow of turning. May we know

that Thou, the eternal God, art our refuge, and that underneath us are thine everlasting arms. Creatures die; friends and relations die. The fathers, where are they? And the prophets, do they live forever? But the Lord liveth, and blessed be our rock, and let the God of our salvation be exalted.

May we never forget that we are mortal ourselves. May we never put the evil day far off. May we frequently and seriously think of a dying hour. May we faithfully inquire, What will be its issue with regard to us, and what preparation have we for it. And may we never rest satisfied till we are enabled to view it as the period of our release and the end of our conflict; till we can say with Paul, Thanks be unto God who has given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Take us this day under thy protection; and make use of us for thy glory. Let thy presence go with us; and do Thou give us rest. Let thy love sweeten our comforts and thy grace sanctify all our trials. We consecrate ourselves to Thee, body, soul, and spirit. Accept of our persons and services; and enable us to ascribe blessing and honor and glory and power unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb, forever and ever. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O God, all thy works praise Thee, and thy saints bless Thee. By thy mercies we again surround this family altar, and engage in the exercises of devotion. May we be concerned to worship Thee, a holy God, in the beauty of holiness; and to worship Thee, who art a spirit, in spirit and in truth. Such worship alone thy word requires; but such worship thy grace alone can enable us to render.

For we know from thy word, and from our own experience we know, that without Thee we can do nothing. All our sufficiency is of Thee: do Thou work in us to will and to do of thy good pleasure.

We would call to remembrance our true character and condition before Thee. We would not go about to establish our own righteousness, or seek to deny or extenuate our guilt. We are not only unprofitable servants, but condemned criminals; we confess the number and offensiveness of our transgressions, and acknowledge that we deserve to perish. But we bless Thee for the everlasting consolation and good hope through grace which the gospel affords; for the news of a Mediator between Thee and us; of a High Priest, who has put away sin by the sacrifice of himself; of an Advocate with the Father, who ever lives to make intercession for us; and of a Savior in whom it has pleased Thee that all fullness should dwell.

Produce in us all the feelings of those who are blessed with repentance unto life. Give us that faith by which we can be justified from all things, and have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. To the shadow of the Redeemer's cross may we retreat, and there find security and relief, refreshment and delight. Assure us of an interest in thy favor, which is life; and clothe us with thine image, which is the beauty and dignity of the soul.

We bless Thee for thy word which we have been reading. May it dwell in us richly in all wisdom. May we yield a suitable attention to its various parts. May we make it not only our song in the house of our pilgrimage, but the man of our counsel, a light unto our feet and a lamp unto our paths. May we take it along with us, into all the concerns of life; and whether we are rich or poor, whether we are parents or children, whether we are appointed to govern or serve, may we walk by this rule, that mercy and peace may be upon us.

May we ever be willing that the Lord should choose our inheritance for us, and readily and piously accommodate ourselves to the dispensations of thy providence. May we never lean to our own understanding. May we never take a step without asking counsel of the Lord, nor be unwilling to take one at the intimation of thy pleasure. May we never think that Thou art less wise and righteous and good in a cloudy and dark day, than in a shining one; when we cannot trace Thee, may we trust; and walking by faith and not by sight, be fully persuaded that just and right are all thy ways, O thou King of saints.

Regard those who, under the pressure of affliction, are saying, Brethren pray for us. Be with them in trouble. Thou knowest the anxieties of thy people, lest by any of their temper or carriage in the evil day, they should injure the religion they profess; let thy grace be sufficient for them; let faith and patience have their perfect work; let them glorify Thee in all their trials.

Bless all in authority over us, and so rule their hearts and strengthen their hands, that they may punish wickedness and vice, and maintain true religion and virtue.

May all those who are placed above others in condition, go before them in the profession of truth and the practice of holiness, and be examples to all inferior ranks in society.

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with us all, now and forevermore. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O Thou eternal God! with Thee is the fountain of life. Thou art the Father of men and angels. Thou art the Governor of the universe, and the Judge of all. Thou

dost from thy throne behold all the dwellers upon earth: and there is not a word on our tongue, or a thought in our heart, but lo! O Lord, Thou knowest it altogether. And Thou art not a God that hast pleasure in wickedness, neither can evil dwell with Thee.

How then can we presume to enter thy presence, who have rendered ourselves guilty before Thee, and have provoked thy righteous displeasure? O wretched creatures that we are! We have wearied thy patience, we have abused thy goodness, we have trampled on thy authority, and we have said unto God, Depart from us, we desire not the knowledge of thy ways. We lie at thy mercy. If Thou pity us not we are undone. But Thou art long-suffering, not willing that any should perish. Hast Thou not sworn by thyself, that Thou has no pleasure in the death of Him that dieth? Hast Thou not delivered up thine own Son for us all? And wilt Thou not with Him also freely give us all things?

Through Him as the way, the truth, and the life, may we return to Thee; and find Thee waiting to be gracious, and exalted to have mercy upon us. Awaken our consciences. Enlighten us in the knowledge of sin and of ourselves. May we feel our personal depravity, misery, and helplessness; and from self-despair, may we be led to value the discoveries of the gospel, and to flee for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us. May we rejoice in the suitableness, the all-sufficiency, and the perfect willingness of the Savior; and find in Him for ourselves individually, wisdom and righteousness, and sanctification and redemption. As our Prophet, may we receive his instructions. As our High Priest, may we rely on his sacrifice and intercession. As our Prince, may we obey Him. As our example, may we follow Him; and what-

soever we do in word or deed, may we do all in the name of the Lord Jesus.

May integrity and uprightness preserve us. May we be Israelites indeed in whom is no guile; and herein exercise ourselves, to have always a conscience void of offence towards God and towards man. May the same mind govern us, and the same spirit actuate us, in prosperity and adversity, alone and in public, in thy house and in our own. May we fulfil our course with diligence and perseverance, and at last finish it with joy. When we have passed the wilderness, and our eyes behold the swellings of Jordan, deliver us from every fear; and give us an abundant entrance into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior.

But, O Lord, we would not reach that felicity alone. May we awaken the attention of others, and induce them to join us in the path of life; ever remembering that if we convert a sinner from the error of his way, we shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins. May we therefore seek every opportunity of usefulness. May we walk in wisdom towards them that are without. May we hold forth the word of life, and adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things — To whom be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O God, Thou art greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about Thee. Thou art King of kings, and Lord of lords: Thou art the blessed and only Potentate: Thou only hast immortality — thy greatness is unsearchable; but thy name is love. Thy compassions never fail. Thy

mercies are over all thy works; and Thou hast displayed the exceeding riches of thy grace, in thy kindness towards us by Jesus Christ.

We are not only allowed, but even enjoined to seek thy face; and assured that they who seek the Lord shall not want any good thing. We acknowledge that we have forfeited all claim to thy regard, and are not only unworthy but guilty. We are convinced that if ever we are saved, it must be according to thy mercy, for there is nothing in us from which our recovery can arise, or on which our hope can fix. But Thou hast commended thy love towards us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us — died for the ungodly. And Thou hast sent the gospel to announce the intelligence, and to certify, that whosoever believeth on Him, shall not perish, but have everlasting life.

O Thou God of all grace, as Thou has given us a Savior, produce in us that faith by which we shall be enabled to receive Him, and make Him all our desire, all our hope, and all our glory. May we enter Him as our refuge; build on Him as our foundation; walk in Him as our way; follow Him as our guide; and conform to Him as our example.

May we never be ashamed of Jesus or of his words, but go forth to Him without the camp, bearing his reproach. May we never draw upon ourselves reflections by unholy or imprudent conduct, nor count it a glory, when buffeted for a fault, to take it patiently; but if we suffer for truth and righteousness' sake, may we rejoice that we are partakers of Christ's sufferings, knowing that when his glory shall be revealed, we also shall rejoice with exceeding joy.

May we never make the multitude our model; never wait for the company and countenance of others, when conviction derived from thy word excites us to advance.

Like Caleb, may we have another spirit, and follow the Lord fully; and with Joshua, say to all around us, Choose you whom you will serve — but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

Preserve us from the present evil world. May its smiles never allure, nor its frowns terrify us from the path of duty. May its vices never defile, nor its errors delude us. May we not live looking at the things which are seen and temporal; but as heirs of immortality, may we feel that we are strangers and pilgrims on earth, and declare plainly that we seek a country. And may our title to it daily become more clear; and our meetness for it more perfect; and our foretastes of it more abundant.

May our house be the tabernacle of the righteous; and let it be ever filled with the voice of rejoicing and of salvation. May those who are stationed at the head of the family know their duty towards those who are placed under their care; and may they know their duty to us; and in our several relations may we walk by the rule of thy word, that mercy and peace may be upon us; and that observers may exclaim, Behold, how good and how pleasant a thing it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.

Bless the religious denomination to which we belong, and let every christian church flourish. Wherever we see the grace of God may we be glad; and willingly leave to the Author of all good the choice of his own instruments. Bless the government of our country. Regard in mercy all its lawful interests, domestic and foreign. Sanctify and perpetuate and extend our religous advantages. Let thy word have free course and be glorified. Let thy way be known on earth, and thy saving health among all nations.

And now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the

power that worketh in us, unto Him be glory in the church, by Christ Jesus, throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.

O God, Thou art glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders. And it is not one of the least of thy wonderful doings towards the children of men, that we are on this side an awful eternity, and not reaping the due reward of our deeds. Our whole life has been a series of provocations against thy divine majesty. Our offences have not only been countless but aggravated. Conscience has rebuked us; friends have admonished us; the examples of the wise and good have reproached and encouraged us. Thou hast often called us to reflection and repentance by the smart of the rod, and invited and allured us by a profusion of kindnesses. Our iniquities are increased over our head, and our trespass is gone up into the very heaven. And Thou hast seen all our sins, and Thou hast abhorred all; and Thou couldst have easily and justly punished us; yet Thou hast spared us; and instead of finding ourselves this morning in the place where even God has forgotten to be gracious, and lifting up our eyes in hopeless torment, we can lift up our eyes unto the hills from whence cometh our help.

In ourselves we are poor, and wretched and miserable, but Thou whom we have offended, even Thou, hast provided every supply for our souls; and with the announcement we have the invitation, Come, for all things are now ready. O Lord, we thankfully obey thy call; we accept of thy goodness; we acquiesce in all the appointments of the gospel. We believe the record Thou hast given of thy

dear Son — that there is salvation in none other, but that in Him there is plenteous redemption; and apply to Him for all the benefits resulting from every office he sustains in the church. We give up our minds implicitly to his instruction; in the sacrifice he once offered, we trust and glory; we revere, we love his authority, and pray that his grace may reign in us through righteousness unto eternal life. We would not — we will not — love a world that crucified *Him*. We will not cherish or endure the sin that put Him to grief, or suffer Him to be wounded in the house of his friends. At the same cross which relieves our consciences from a burden too heavy for us to bear, we would learn lessons of self-denial, forgiveness, and submission: we would feel motives to obedience, and find resources for all the exigencies of the divine life.

For we rejoice to think that by his being made a curse for us, the blessing of Abraham comes upon the Gentiles, and that we can receive the promise of the Spirit by faith. For his sake, give thy Holy Spirit to them that now ask Thee — as a spirit of grace and of supplication, of truth and of holiness, of peace and of consolation: and may we not only possess, but be filled with the Spirit.

May we never consider ourselves as detached individuals. May we look not every man on his own things, only, but also on the things of others. Never may we ask with Cain, when reproved for unkindness or urged to beneficence, Am I my brother's keeper? But may we love our neighbor as ourselves. May we do good even to the unthankful and the unworthy; may we teach transgressors thy ways, and be the means of converting sinners unto Thee: and may none of our efforts be rendered fruitless by inconsistency of character and reproachfulness of conduct. May we *be* what we *profess;* and *do* as well as *teach.* May all our connexions *see* as well as *hear* our

religion, and be constrained to acknowledge that we are the seed which the Lord hath blessed.

We bless Thee that again we have laid us down in peace and slept, because Thou, Lord, only makest us dwell in safety. Into thy hands we commit our bodies and spirits, for our going out and coming in this day. We are more exposed by day than by night; more surrounded with evil, and more liable to the seductions of sin. May we ever regard sin as our greatest foe, and holiness as our noblest attainment. And whether we are in solitude or society, lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O God, Thou hast made and Thou upholdest all things by the word of thy power. Darkness is thy pavilion. Thou walkest upon the wings of the wind. All nations before Thee are as nothing. One generation passeth away and another cometh; and we are hastening back to the dust whence we were taken. The heavens we behold will vanish away like the cloud that covers them, and the earth we tread will dissolve like a morning dream; but Thou, incapable of change, independent of the vicissitudes of time, and the perishing of worlds, art from everlasting to everlasting, God over all, blessed for evermore.

Infinitely great and glorious as Thou art, we are thy offspring and thy care. Thy hands have made us and fashioned us. Thou hast watched over us with more than parental, more than maternal tenderness. Thou hast holden our soul in life, and not suffered our feet to be moved. Thy divine power has given us all things, not

only necessary for life, but godliness. Bless the Lord, O our soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgiveth all our iniquities, who healeth all our diseases; who redeemeth our lives from destruction, who crowneth us with loving-kindness and tender mercies; who satisfieth our mouth with good things, so that our youth is renewed like the eagle's.

We raise this evening a fresh memorial, and inscribe it to the God of our salvation. Hitherto hath the Lord helped us. We have passed not only through another day, but through another week. The sun has not smitten us by day nor the moon by night. We have been preserved in our going out and coming in. But thine has been the vigilance that turned aside the evils which threatened us. Thine have been the supplies that have nourished us. Thine the comforts that have indulged us. Thine the relations and friends that have delighted us. Thine have been the means of grace which have edified us; and thine the book which amidst all our enjoyments has told us that this is not our rest; and that in all our successes, one thing is yet needful.

Nothing can equal the number of thy mercies, but our imperfections and sins. These, O God, we would not conceal nor palliate, but confess them with a broken heart and a contrite spirit.

In what a condition would our closet-reviews leave us this evening, were it not for the assurance that there is forgiveness with Thee, that Thou mayest be feared, and with Thee plenteous redemption. Yet while we hope for pardon through the blood of the cross, we pray to be clothed with humility, to be quickened in thy way and to be more devoted to the things that belong to our everlasting peace.

How soon has the week rolled away! Its days have

fled like a dream, a vapor, a shadow. So will all our days flee; so will they all appear when the end arrives. O help us to keep that end in remembrance, and endeavor to view things now as they will appear from the borders of the grave. May we know how frail we are, that we may be cured of the folly of delay and indecision; and so number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

May we call the approaching sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord honorable; and may we honor Thee in not doing our own ways, nor finding our own pleasures, nor speaking our own words. May the private moments of the day be sacred, and the social innocent and edifying. And may we keep our foot when we go to the house of God, and offer not the sacrifice of fools. Let us not go as thy people go, and sit as thy people sit, and hear thy words, but do them not.

Preserve us from trifling with the things of the soul and eternity, or trusting in those privileges which unimproved will only augment our guilt and our misery.

Thy people, the Jews, were distinguished by thy favors above all the families of the earth; but wrath came upon them to the uttermost. The churches of Asia provoked Thee to remove the candlestick out of its place, and they were left in darkness. We have awful examples still nearer. How many who once heard and professed the gospel, have been turned by the abuse of it into apostates and infidels, blasphemers and persecutors — tenfold more the children of hell than before; while numbers who yet maintain the form of godliness, are too hardened to feel the power of it.

While therefore we go to thy house in the multitude of thy mercies, may we in thy *fear* worship towards thy holy temple; for Thou art greatly to be feared in the as-

sembly of the saints. O let us not perish under means designed to save us — O let not the savor of life unto life prove to us only the savor of death unto death.

Make the place of thy feet glorious. Bring us to thy holy mountain, and if we are not made joyful in thy house of prayer — for we would not dictate to thy goodness — convince us, alarm us, humble us, banish the spirit of the world from our hearts, and fill us with all the fulness of God. So we thy people and the sheep of thy pasture will give Thee thanks forever; we will show forth thy praise throughout all generations. Amen.

THIRD WEEK.

SUNDAY MORNING.

O God, we desire with all reverence and humility to approach Thee as a Being infinitely great and glorious. Thou art the perfection of all excellency, the fountain of all life, and the source of all blessedness. How immense is the family of creatures produced by thy word, and depending on thy care. Millions are visible; and myriads of myriads in the air, the earth, and the sea, are invisible; and all these have their wants and their appetites, and are capable of receiving relief and pleasure. And the eyes of *all* wait upon Thee, and Thou givest them their meat in due season; Thou openest thine hand and satisfiest the desire of every living thing.

But *they* never forfeited the care of their Creator, nor swerved from the end of their being; while *we* have revolted from Thee; *we* have joined in alliance with thy foes, and deserve, as children of disobedience, that the wrath of God should come upon us. And yet such is the excellency of thy loving kindness, O Lord, that the *children of men*, unworthy and guilty as they are, are allowed to come and put their trust under the shadow of thy wings.

We bless Thee for the scriptures of truth which make known thy designs concerning us, and assure us that they are thoughts of peace and not of evil. We rejoice in thy word as one that findeth great spoil. We love to peruse its doctrines, promises, and invitations; to contemplate

the great mystery of godliness, God manifest in the flesh; and to dwell on the history and experience of those who have obtained mercy. For all who have ever been saved, have been saved by thy grace, and have been thy workmanship. And Thou art the same yesterday, to-day, and forever: thy hand is not shortened that it cannot save, nor thine ear heavy that it cannot hear.

Bow down thine ear and hearken to the voice of our supplication: employ thy hand for our deliverance and relief. We are already the creatures of thy power, O make us the subjects of thy grace. We are already the charge of thy providence, O bless us with all spiritual blessings — blessings for our souls and for eternity. Though by nature afar off, may we be made nigh by the blood of Christ; no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and of the household of God. Bless us, we pray Thee, with a present salvation — that being justified by faith, we may have peace with God; that the love and power of sin may be subdued in our hearts; that we may be dead to the world, alive to the glory of God, and concerned to serve our generation according to thy will.

May we never be blots or mere blanks in life. May we never cause the way of truth to be evil spoken of: may our liberty never prove an occasion to the flesh, but by love may we serve one another. May every one of us please his neighbor for his good to edification. May we attend not only to what is essential in our religious character, but what is ornamental. May we pursue whatsoever things are lovely and of good report, and render our profession of the gospel not only impressive but amiable and inviting. May we hold forth the word of life with our tempers as well as our tongues, with our lives as well as our lips, and thus be continually saying to those

we meet, We are journeying towards a place of which the Lord said, I will give it you; come with us and it will do you good, for the Lord hath spoken good concerning Israel.

Send out thy light and thy truth; let them lead us, let them guide us to thy holy hill and to thy tabernacles. Bless this day the dispensation of thy gospel by means of preaching. While Paul plants and Apollos waters—it is all that they can do—give Thou the increase. May thy ministers be wise to win souls, and help those much which have believed through grace.

Especially bless thy dear servant on whose labors we are this day to attend. Let him come forth from his sacred retirement in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of peace; and may he enter the sanctuary as Aaron entered the tabernacle of the congregation when the holy oil was poured upon his head, and the fragrance filled the place—and O let him not prove the savor of death unto death to any that shall hear him. Open our ears to discipline; may we hear for ourselves; hear for our souls; so hear as that our souls may live. And may great grace rest upon all the assemblies of thy people.

Despise not the prisoners of thy providence. Follow those who are unable to follow Thee; and while forbidden to hear the preaching of the word, may they hear the voice of the rod, and have reason to say, It is good for us that we have been afflicted. Make them thankful, that to will is present with them; and that in their hearts are the ways of those who repair to Zion. Prove thyself a very present help in trouble; and render the bed of languishing, the chamber of sickness, the house of mourning, none other than the house of God, and the gate of heaven.

And by all the discipline of thy providence and the ordinances of religion, may we be increasingly prepared for

the remaining duties of life, the solemnities of a dying hour, and the services and joys that are beyond the grave.

We implore it through the intercession of Him who has encouraged us to address Thee as — Our Father, &c.

SUNDAY EVENING.

It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O Most High; to show forth thy loving kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night.

We have this evening to acknowledge the blessings, not only of another day, but of another sabbath. We bless Thee that the sabbath was made for man, and that Thou hast hallowed such a portion of our time, for purposes the most important, but which, alas! we are prone to neglect. Thus Thou art affording us opportunities to retire and compare the objects which court our attention; to learn, among all the cares of life, that one thing is needful; and to hear the inquiry, What is a man profited, if he should gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Thus we have moments of abstraction and leisure in which we can more fully investigate our character, examine our condition, and ask for what purpose we entered this mortal stage, and what will become of us when the scene closes.

We thank Thee that the lines are fallen to us in pleasant places, and that we have a goodly heritage; so that we can add to private meditation and devotion the public ordinances of religion, and can sit under our own vine and fig tree, none daring to make us afraid. We bless Thee that we have not only the scriptures, but the ministry of the gospel; and have this day not only read, but

heard the words of eternal life. We hope we have seen thy power and thy glory in the sanctuary, and have found the house of God to be the gate of heaven.

But, O God, the effects we experience while waiting upon Thee, though delightful, are as often transitory, and prove like the morning cloud and early dew. Before the lapse of a single day, we are compelled to complain, My soul cleaveth unto the dust; and to pray, Quicken Thou me according to thy word. Render therefore the impressions made upon us deep and durable; keep these things forever in the imagination of the hearts of thy people; and let thy word dwell in us richly in all wisdom.

May the instructions we receive attend us in every part of our ordinary life, and regulate and excite us in the discharge of all our relative duties, so that whether we are husbands or wives, parents or children, masters or servants, we may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things. May we be satisfied with no knowledge, no belief, no professions, no feelings in religion — while our hearts are void of thy love, and we are strangers to that grace which bringeth salvation, and teacheth us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to live soberly, righteously, and godly, in the present world.

We take shame to ourselves, not only for our open violations of thy law, but for our secret faults, our omissions of duty, our unprofitable attendance on the means of grace, our carnality in worshipping Thee, and all the sins of our holy things. Our iniquities are increased over our head, and our trespass is gone up into the very heavens — and there *He* is gone also, who is our advocate with the Father, and the propitiation for our sins. Behold his hands and his feet; and hear, O hear the voice of the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

Pity those who have this day been deprived of the public means of grace by sickness or infirmity. Let them know that Thou art not confined to temples made with hands. Be with them in trouble, and give them their vineyards from thence, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope. And remember the millions who were never favored with the advantages we enjoy, and would be grateful for the crumbs that fall from our table. But they never smiled when a sabbath appeared; they never heard of the name of Jesus; they feel guilt, but know nothing of the blood that cleanseth from all sin; they feel depravity, but know nothing of the renewing of the Holy Ghost; they are bleeding to death of their spiritual wounds, but no one proclaims among them the balm of Gilead and the physician there! O send out thy light and thy truth. Let thy way be known on earth, thy saving health among all nations.

We now commit ourselves with all our connexions into thy hands. Guard us through the defenceless hours of sleep from every evil to which we are exposed. If, as life is always uncertain, it should please Thee to call us hence this night, may we awake in glory and be forever with the Lord; or if Thou shouldst continue us in being, may we rise in health and comfort to pay Thee the homage of a grateful heart in a course of cheerful obedience.

In thy favor is life — do *Thou* bless us and we shall be blessed — safe from every evil, and assured of every good. And prepare us at length for the rest that remains for thy people; in which we shall join the general assembly and church of the first-born, in ascribing blessing and honor and glory and power to Him that sitteth upon the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.

O Thou, who hast characterized thyself as the hearer of prayer, unto Thee shall all flesh come: and that we may come with acceptance and success, we come in the name of the great Intercessor, Jesus Christ the righteous; and Thou, eternal Spirit of grace and supplication, do Thou make intercession for us, by making intercession in us according to the will of God.

All they that are far from Thee shall perish; but it is good for us to draw near to Thee. We have found the duty our delight. Devotion has opened a resource, when all other comforts have failed; and in every perplexity, every alarm, every distress, a glorious high throne from the beginning has been the place of our sanctuary. We praise thy name that ordinances have not been unprofitable observances to our souls, but channels through which the God of all grace has replenished us, and means by which we have enjoyed fellowship with the Father and his Son Jesus Christ.

Bless the services in which we were engaged on the past day. Let a savor of divine things be left on our spirits and be diffused in our conversation. And as the face of Moses when he descended from communion with Thee, shone so that the Israelites could not steadfastly behold him for the glory of his countenance, so may it be with us. Let those around us take knowledge of us that we have been with Jesus; and may our profiting appear unto all men. May our light shine before men. May we be *manifestly* the disciples of Christ. Instead of confounding our neighbors and friends to determine whether we are settlers or strangers and pilgrims on the earth, may we declare *plainly* that we seek a country. May we

put on as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering, forbearing one another, and forgiving one another. May we be followers of God as dear children; may we be perfect as our Father who is in heaven is perfect.

At present it is a day of small things with us. We have only light enough to see our darkness; sensibility enough to feel the hardness of our hearts; spirituality enough to mourn our want of heavenly mindedness. But we might have had more; we ought to have had more. We have never been straitened in Thee: Thou hast always placed before us an infinite fulness, accompanied with the command and the promise, Open thy mouth wide; I will fill it.

We confess and bewail not only our deficiencies, but our backslidings also. It is not with us as it was in months past: O, recal us to thyself; enable us to feel our first love, and to do our first works. Yea, may we forget the things that are behind, and reach forth unto those that are before. May we not only have life, but may we have it more abundantly; and not only be fruitful, but bear much fruit.

May our improvements correspond with our privileges; and our practice with our knowledge. May our wills always bow to the decisions of our judgements; may we choose what we approve; and never condemn ourselves in the things that we allow.

May we never want the threatnings of thy law and the terrors of hell to keep us from every evil way. May thy goodness lead us to repentance, and thy love constrain us to all holy obedience.

May all our churches continue steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine, and in fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayer; and may the Lord add daily to their numbers such as shall be saved.

May the dead hear the voice of the Son of God and live. May those who are asking the way to Zion with their faces thitherward, find a teacher that will say to them, This is the way, walk ye in it, when they turn to the right hand and when they turn to the left. Let the rich be poor in spirit; and the poor be made rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which Thou hast promised to them that love Thee. Let the ignorant be enlightened; and let those that are wise become fools that they may be be wise.

We bless Thee for all thy former loving-kindnesses to this family, and pray that they may be continued to us and sanctified by us. May the outgoings of the morning and evening of another day be made to rejoice. May we continually live under the shadow of thy wing and the influence of thy grace; and let the words of our mouth and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our redeemer.

And unto Him that is able to do for us exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us — unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus, throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.

Who in the heavens can be compared unto the Lord? Who among the sons of the mighty can be likened unto the Lord? Thy wisdom no difficulty can perplex; thy power no exertion can weaken; thy bounty no communications can exhaust or diminish. Thy goodness waits to be gracious and is exalted to have mercy.

Thou hearest prayer; and to assure our hearts before Thee, Thou hast furnished us with the petitions we are to

offer. Thou, even Thou, hast told us to take with us words and turn to the Lord, and say, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously; so will we offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to his name.

We feel the truth of our character, as drawn in the scriptures; and we acknowledge our desert and our helplessness too. Thy mercy is our only refuge and resource. O be merciful unto us, and bless us, and cause thy face to shine upon us, that we may be saved. O visit us with that salvation which is present as well as future; which changes not only our state but our nature; and which not only admits us into thy family, but makes us new creatures.

As Thou didst in the original creation command the light to shine out of darkness, so do Thou shine in our hearts. Give us the light of the knowledge of thy glory in the face of Jesus Christ; and may we so know Thee as to love Thee supremely; serve Thee as our only Lord, and cleave to Thee as our portion forever. Subdue the rebellion of our wills, that we may submit to thy commands, and acquiesce in thy dispensations without murmurings and disputings. Unite our hearts to fear thy name; and may we be in the fear of the Lord all the day long. Make us Israelites indeed in whom there is no guile. Enable us to maintain a conscience void of offence towards God and towards man. May we be the same when no eye sees us as we are in the public walks of life. May we enter the closet as well as the temple, and attend to our principles and motives as well as our actions and pursuits.

We mourn over our numberless failures and backslidings; our incorrigibleness under rebukes; our want of profiting under ordinances; the misimprovement of our talents;

and our neglect of opportunities of usefulness. Whatever view we take of ourselves compels us to exclaim, Behold I am vile. Yet while we are humble may we be grateful; and never be backward to acknowledge what Thou hast done for our souls. If we are not like some of thy people, we bless Thee that we are not like the rest of the world; if we are not what we ought to be, we are not what we once were. *Thou* hast made us to differ, and we have nothing which we did not receive from Thee.

And if our religion be imperfect, may it appear to be real and vital by its activity and its tending to growth. May it awaken in us an unconquerable desire to go from strength to strength, and to be renewed day by day.

May our religion always attend us and dignify us in the ordinary scenes of life. May we remember that greatness consists not in doing great things, but in doing little things with a great mind.

As the events of providence occur, may they always find in us those dispositions which will keep them from injuring us, and which will convert them all into advantages.

In a vale of tears, may we look for a succession of trials; and may we also look for the accomplishment of the promise, I will be with Thee in trouble.

May the joy of the Lord be our strength; may it keep us from lusting after the vanities of the world; bear up the heart and mind in the loss of every creature-comfort; and enliven us in the valley of the shadow of death. And before we reach heaven, may we bear the image of the heavenly, possess the earnests of our inheritance, and enjoy the first-fruits of the glorious harvest.

And to God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, forever and ever. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O God, Thou art the creator, the upholder, and the proprietor of all things. Thy dominion is everlasting and universal. Thou doest according to thine own will in the armies of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: none can stay thy hand, or say unto Thee, What dost Thou?

We cannot escape from thy presence or control, nor do we desire it. It is our privilege that we are under the agency, not only of omnipotence, but righteousness, wisdom, patience, mercy, and grece. Thou art love. Thou hast loved us with more than parental affection. Thou hast commended thy love towards us, in that while we were sinners Christ died for us. He that spared not his own Son bnt delivered Him up for us all — how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Here may all our fears drop off from cur minds; here may we be filled with everlasting consolation and good hope through grace.

Thou hast not only allowed, but commanded us to believe on the name of thy dear Son. O let us not refuse to be comforted; let us not reject the councel of God against ourselves; but remembering that we are as welcome as we are guilty, may we drink of the fountain of the water of life freely.

But while we know that we *may* come to the Redeemer and *ought* to come — may we never think ourselves interested in the blessings of his salvation unless we *have* come. May there be a real and living union between our souls and Him, that quickened together with Christ, we may be raised up, and made to sit with Him in the heavenly places. May we live a life of faith in thy promises,

mingled with no jealously of thy truth nor suspicion of thy power. May we live a life of hope; expecting that Thou wilt be our sun and our shield; that Thou wilt give grace and glory; and withhold no good thing from us while we walk uprightly. And may we live a life of love; for he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God and God in him. O shed abroad thy love in our hearts, the animating and delightful principle of all obedience. May we love our neighbor as ourselves, and consider every one as our neighbor who falls within the reach of our knowledge and assistance.

We feel that the work to which we are called is far above our strength. We have tried our purposes and resolutions and have found them vain. The least temptation has been too powerful for us, when we have gone forth in our own strength. O teach us how to be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. And at every movement in our journey and our warfare, say to our heart, Fear not, for I am with Thee; be not dismayed, for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

And may we never depart from Thee by making flesh our arm, or the creature our portion. With regard to the world, may our soul be even as a weaned child; but may we draw near to Thee as our exceeding joy, and contemplate, with approbation, the period when we shall behold thy face in righteousness, awake up after thy likeness, and be satisfied with thy favor. All which we implore through the mediation of Him who ever liveth to make intercession for us; and to whom, with the Father, and the Holy Spirit, be endless praises. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.

May we approach Thee with all the encouragement derivable from a conviction that Thou art the blessed God — happy in thyself, and the source of happiness to thy creatures. The eyes of all wait upon Thee, and Thou givest them their meat in due season. Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing. Thou art our maker and benefactor. Thou hast not only produced us, but sustained; not only supported us, but indulged; yea, Thou hast given us all things richly to enjoy. Thou hast provided for the welfare of our souls as well as our bodies; Thou hast answered the awful question, How shall I come before the Lord and bow before the High God? Thou hast told us what we must do to be saved. May we follow the light of life which Thou hast given us, till it brings us to Him who appears in every attribute, and in every attitude of power and pity to meet all our wants and miseries. And as we draw near, may we hear his gracious voice saying, Him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out. May we commit our eternal all into his hands; and being reconciled by his death, may we be saved by his life. May we live by Him, live to Him, live like Him. While we behold Him as rich for our sakes becoming poor, and dying that we may live, may his unexampled love constrain us into all holy obedience and zeal, and render our duty our delight.

May we never wait for the company of others, or feel their approbation necessary to induce us to follow *Him* who is all our salvation, and ought to be all our desire. May we go forth to Him without the camp, bearing his reproach. And if our faith is deemed folly, our hope de-

lusion, our meekness meanness, our zeal madness; may we rejoice that we are counted worthy to suffer shame for his name; and binding it as a garland around our brow, say, If this be to be vile, I will yet be more vile. Thus, blessed Redeemer, wast Thou treated in the days of thy flesh; thus was thy name cast out as evil, thy actions misrepresented, and thy spirit blasphemed. O let the servants be willing to be as the Master, and the disciples as the Lord.

We hope in thy word; but it is because it assures us that Thou waitest to be gracious; and dost not break the bruised reed nor quench the smoking flax. How poor and pitiable, how maimed and dying a thing has our religion been under every advantage to promote it. Lord, hide pride from us; enable us to walk humbly with our God, and ask and receive that our joy may be full. Hast Thou not promised to supply all our need from thy riches in glory by Christ Jesus? Thou knowest all our warfare, all our work, all our trials; and Thou knowest the degree and extent of our weakness; and yet Thou hast said, My grace is sufficient for thee. Lord, we believe; help Thou our unbelief.

While we rejoice in our privileges, we would remember the way in which they have become ours. We have nothing to glory in before Thee. We ourselves also were once foolish and disobedient; and we would ever look to the rock whence we were hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence we were digged. Thou hast made us to differ; and we have nothing but what we have received.

And this encourages us with regard to others. What Thou hast done for us, Thou art able to do for them; and Thou art willing. Thou hast therefore commanded us to pray for all men. O let none of those perish whom we love as our own souls. Keep them as the apple of the eye; hide them under the shadow of thy wing.

Let grace and peace be multiplied to all who have obtained like precious faith with us; and if Thou art pleased to try that faith, may the trial be found unto praise and glory and honor at the appearing of Jesus Christ.

But we would not forget even the ignorant and profligate. Teach transgressors thy ways, and let sinners be converted unto Thee.

Dethrone the god of this world. Destroy the works of the devil. And may our globe, which has so long groaned beneath the curse, be as the smell of a field which the Lord hath blessed. Send out thy light and thy truth, thy servants and thy laborers; and for them may the wilderness and the solitary place be made glad, and the desert rejoice and blossom as the rose.

Amen — Blessing and glory and power and might be unto our God forever and ever. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O Thou with whom we have to do! suffer us not to live without Thee in the world. Thou art our Creator, our Preserver, our Governor, and we believe that Thou wilt be our Judge. It is well for us that we can view Thee under another character — the Savior of sinners; and that before we are called to appear before thy awful tribunal, we are invited and commanded to come boldly to the throne of grace, there to obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

May we readily and thankfully avail ourselves of every opportunity to draw nigh to God, in the temple, in the retirement of the closet, and at the domestic altar; and let not our devotion be bodily exercise only. Quicken our souls to call upon thy name. Detach us from the influ-

ence of flesh and sense. Impress us with the power of faith, and produce in us that spirituality of mind which will render our services acceptable to Thee, and delightful and profitable to ourselves.

Though Thou art Most High forevermore, Thou regardest the man that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and that trembleth at thy word. Thou fillest the hungry with good things, while the rich are sent empty away. O bring us, however humbling and painful the process may be, O bring us into that state which attracts thine eye, and prepares for the proofs of thy love! Show us our danger, that we may flee for refuge to the hope set before us. Make us sensible of our disease, and of the eternal death to which it is so rapidly tending, that we may value the Physician, and cry, Heal me and I shall be healed, save me and I shall be saved, for Thou art my praise.

Our deliverance must come entirely from thyself. And Thou hast not forgotten to be gracious. We bless Thee for the purpose of salvation; for the engagements of the everlasting covenant; and for the gift of thy dear Son, the proof and the pledge that Thou wilt also freely give us all things. We thank Thee for the word of truth which proclaims peace by the blood of the cross; and beseeches us in Christ's stead to be reconciled unto God. O let the message prevail. Let it slay the enmity of our hearts, and lead us to throw down every weapon of rebellion, and mourn over them. With weeping and supplication may we return to Thee from whom we have so deeply revolted; and while with shame and self-abhorrence we confess that other lords beside Thee have had dominion over us, henceforth may we resolve that by Thee only will we make mention of thy name. With zeal may we engage in that service which is perfect freedom; and with entireness devote ourselves to that work which is honora-

ble and glorious. May we employ every faculty and use every blessing, as those who know that they are not their own, but bought with a price, and are bound to glorify God in their body and in their spirit which are God's.

Work in us to will and to do of thy good pleasure. Uphold us by thy free spirit; and let the joy of the Lord be our strength.

May we be watchful over our ways; may we be jealous over our tempers; and may we keep our hearts with all diligence, knowing that out of them are the issues of life. Divest us of pride, and clothe us with humbleness of mind. Eradicate every root of bitterness, and let the peace of God rule in our hearts.

When we droop, revive us; when we loiter, quicken us; restore us when we go astray; and lead us in the paths of righteousness for thy name's sake.

Yea, though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death may we fear no evil, knowing that Thou art with us, and that thy rod and staff will comfort us.

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make his face to shine upon us, and be gracious unto us. The Lord lift up his countenance upon us and give us peace. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O God, Thou art greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all that are about Thee. Those glorious beings that never fell, veil their faces, and sink into nothing before the Eternal All, and exclaim, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of his glory. With what emotions should *we* enter thy presence, whose foundation is in the dust; and who have contemned thy goodness, defied thy

power, trampled upon thy laws, and rendered ourselves worthy of eternal death. Our iniquities are increased over our head, and our trespass is gone up into the very heavens. Enter not into judgment with thy servants: our consciences assure us, that if Thou, Lord, shouldst mark iniquity, we could not stand.

But there is mercy with Thee, and with Thee there is plenteous redemption; and therefore, while a sense of our vileness depresses us, we encourage ourselves in thy word. We know that our recovery can never spring from any cause in us. We have destroyed ourselves, but we cannot save. Yet our condition is not helpless. Help is laid on One that is mighty, and infinitely qualified for his work; and who has shown us in his resurrection from the dead and ascension into heaven, the all-sufficiency and acceptance of his sacrifice on the cross, and proved that by the one offering of himself he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified.

Informed of this compassionate scheme, may we gratefully fall in with the design; may we unfeignedly believe the record that Thou hast given us of thy Son, embrace Him as our only hope, rejoice in Him as our highest glory; and henceforth may the life that we live in the flesh be by the faith of Him who loved us and gave himself for us.

And while we live by Him, may we live to Him, and may we live like Him. May we never consider ourselves Christians but as we resemble Christ. May our conformity to his principles, temper, and conduct, be hourly growing, and become more apparent not only to ourselves but to others. And may we continue in his word, that we may be his disciples indeed; rooted and built up in Him, and stablished in the truth as we have been taught, and abounding therein with thanksgiving.

May no degree of watching or length of waiting cool our love and zeal. Whatever discouragements we meet with, may we never grow weary in well doing. Yea, may we not only persevere, while many draw back, but fear God above many who go forward; and hear the Savior-Judge saying, I know thy works, and the last to be more than the first.

May we not only *be blessed*, but *prove blessings*. May we often look closely at our talents, relations, and circumstances in life, to see how we can be serviceable to the bodies and souls of our fellow-creatures, and especially how we may do good to them that are of the household of faith.

We are continually meeting with wants and miseries which we are utterly unable to remove or relieve; but we rejoice that in our contracted agency, prayer opens a resource to our benevolence. We can pray; and prayer has power with God and can prevail.

Let the leisure and affluence of the rich in this world afford them means and opportunities of beneficence; may they be ready to communicate, and be rich in good works.

Let the afflictions of the afflicted render sin hateful, wean them from a vain world, endear to them the word of grace, the throne of grace, and the Spirit of grace; and work out for them a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.

Let our ignorance of futurity keep us in a state of constant dependence upon thy providential care; and lead us earnestly to seek large supplies of the spirit of Jesus Christ to fit us for all events.

Thou hast redeemed us, O Lord God of Truth; therefore into thine hands we commit ourselves and our interests, beseeching Thee to do for us exceeding abundantly above all we are able to ask or think, through our only Lord and Savior. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O God, help us to approach Thee under a very lively conviction of thy abundant mercy, and the exceeding riches of thy grace. We ought to admire thy wisdom, to stand in awe of thy power, and to abase ourselves before thy spotless purity. But it is the discovery of thy goodness alone that can banish our fear, and allure us with humble confidence into thy presence, there to divulge our sorrows and confess our sins.

And O how encouraging is it, under a review of our past guilt, and a conciousness of present unworthiness, to know that we have to do with a being who waits to be gracious, and is exalted to have mercy. We therefore bless Thee, that an attribute so essential to our happiness and hope is not founded on conjecture, or obscurely revealed. Thou hast not left thyself without witness in the seasons of the year, and the bounties of nature and providence. But Thou hast given us thy word, which Thou hast magnified above all thy name. There we see Thee not sparing thine own Son, but delivering Him up for us all; there we behold the provisions of thy house; there we hear the proclamations of thy servants, Come, for all things are now ready.

Lord, make us willing to be saved, and to be saved in thy own way. Condemned by the law which we have so often transgressed, may we turn for all our relief to the gospel; and perceiving nothing in ourselves, may we find in the hope of Israel, wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. May the message which concerns a dying, rising, interceding Savior, be received into our very hearts, and become there a well of water springing up into everlasting life. And may we not only receive

Christ Jesus the Lord, but also walk in Him; in a state of dependence upon Him, communion with Him, and conformity to Him. May we be followers of Him as dear children; imperfect, but still pressing forward; not complaining of labor, but valuing rest; not murmuring under our trials, but thankful for a state — O that we were sure of reaching it! — where our sun shall no more go down, nor our moon withdraw herself, but God shall be our everlasting light, and the days of our mourning shall be ended.

We live in the midst of observation. Many watch for our halting, and wish our good to be evil spoken of. May we walk the more circumspectly, and by well doing may we put to silence the ignorance of foolish men; yea, by our good works which they behold, may we constrain them to glorify God in the day of visitation.

We appear not alone in thy presence, but are variously connected in life. Regard those who are dear to us by the claims of nature or friendship. We ask not that Thou shouldst set them upon the high places of the earth, but O number them with thy saints in glory everlasting. O let none of them die without an interest in Christ, and be separated from us in the day when Thou wilt make up thy jewels.

Bless those who are related to us in religious bonds. And such we are delighted to consider *all* the followers of the Lamb, under whatever name, distinctive or reproachful, they may pass among men. May the Lord add to his people, how many soever they be, a hundred fold; and may grace and peace be multiplied unto them.

And forget not, we beseech Thee, those to whom we are politically allied. May all who are in places of public trust be faithful to the public interest. Teach our senators wisdom. May our magistrates be men fearing God and hating covetousness; terrors to evil doers, and a praise to

them that do well: and may all ranks in the community pursue that righteousness which exalteth a nation, that being a holy, we may be a happy people, whose God is the Lord.

So we thy people, and the sheep of thy pasture, will give Thee thanks for ever; we will show forth thy praise throughout all generations. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.

When we enter thy presence, O God, we see Thee in all the glory of thy perfections, seated on a throne of universal and everlasting empire, thousands ministering unto Thee, and ten thousand times ten thousand standing before Thee. Impress our minds with a consciousness of thy greatness — not to drive us back from Thee, but to inspire us with reverence and godly fear in approaching Thee — not to diminish our confidence in Thee, but to lead us to admire the vastness of thy condescension, in deigning to open communications with creatures so mean and vile as we are. Lord, what is man that Thou art mindful of him, or the son of man that Thou visitest him?

And yet *Thou* hast been mindful of *us;* Thou hast visited us. We have been thy charge from our birth; and Thou hast in all conditions cared for us. We have been constantly fed at thy table, and clothed from thy wardrobe. How often hast Thou drawn the curtain of night around us, and ordered creation to be quiet, while thy children have slumbered and slept. Thy mercies have been new every morning. Thy goodness has inspired our relations and friends with all the sentiments of tenderness and respect they have ever expressed towards us. And we would not overlook the blessings of the life that

now is — but, O Lord, suffer us not to forget that we want better blessings than these. We want a hope beyond the grave. We are guilty, depraved, dying creatures. We need pardon and holiness, and wisdom and strength, and peace and joy: we want the earnests and foretastes of immortality. And blessed be thy name, what we so much need, and hope we can say, so much desire, Thou hast provided. We thank Thee for thy unspeakable gift. We rejoice that we have our existence in a land of gospel privileges, and where one of the first sounds that entered our infant ears, from a mother's lips, was the name of Jesus. We rejoice that we have been led to view Him, not only as a teacher and an example, but as the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world; and that now in Christ Jesus, we, who sometimes were afar off, are made nigh by the blood of Christ, and have boldness and access with confidence, by the faith of Him.

May we look after actual and personal benefit from Him, and never be satisfied till we can say, I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed to Him against that day. Possess us with more of that faith which is the principle and medium of all vital godliness: may we be rich in faith; may we be strong in faith. By faith may we live, and by faith may we walk. May we feel the joy of faith, and do the work of faith. May we abound in hope: may the charity of every one of us towards each other increase; and may we be filled with all the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God.

We ought to feel a broken heart and a contrite spirit. We grieve to think how insensible we have been to the claims of thy authority, and the endearments of thy love; how little we have credited thy truth, trusted thy promises, feared thy threatenings, obeyed thy commands, or

improved any of our advantages. We have had line upon line, and precept upon precept. How numberless have been our admonitions and warnings; and Thou hast said, He that being often reproved, hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

We thank Thee, that notwithstanding our desert, this is not at present our doom. As yet we are in the number of those for whom Thou art waiting to be gracious. We are yet in the land of the living. Through another day Thou hast spared us and blessed us. May thy goodness lead us to repentance, and thy long-suffering prove our salvation. Let no evil befal us, and no plague come nigh our dwelling this night; and in the morning may we rise to walk before the Lord in the land of the living, and to show forth all his praise.

We implore it in the name of Him who died for our sins, rose again for our justification, and ever liveth to make intercession for us; and to whom, with the Father and Holy Spirit, be ascribed everlasting praises. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.

Our voice shalt Thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning alone, and in our family, will we direct our prayer unto Thee, and will look up. How well does it become us to be thankful! Many during the past night have had no place where to lay their head. Many, the victims of disease, have been full of tossing to and fro, until the dawning of the day; so that their bed has not comforted them, nor their couch eased their complaint. Many have been deprived of rest while watching over their connexions in pain and sorrow. How many have slept the sleep of death, and will not awake till the

heavens are no more. Others, whose lives are prolonged, have risen to be surrounded with want and wo; and thousands who have all things richly to enjoy, have risen only to live another day without God in the world.

And why is not this the case with us? Thou, O God, hast remembered and distinguished and indulged us. Bless the Lord, O *my* soul, and all that is within me bless his holy name. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name *together*.

And thy mercies have been new every morning; yea, every morning. All our desires have not been gratified; but it was love that denied us, when the accomplishment of our wishes would have proved our ruin or our injury. We have had our trials, but they have been few compared with our sins; they have been attended with numberless alleviations; and when we have kissed the rod, it has fallen out of thy hand. Thou hast often wiped away our tears, and restored peace to thy mourners. Thou hast never chastened us but for our profit. We already see the design of many of our griefs, and can say, It is good for me that I have been afflicted: and in all other cases, where darkness yet clouds the dispensation, we desire to walk by faith. We believe that Thou hast done all things well, and that thy work is perfect.

But O, what do we owe Thee for the word of thy truth, the throne of thy grace, the Son of thy love — thy unspeakable gift! What do we owe Thee, if we have any reason to hope that we are in Christ, and free from all condemnation; and that when He who is our life shall appear, we shall also appear with Him in glory, and be forever with the Lord!

Surely a gratitude becomes us that will not evaporate in a morning acknowledgment with the lip, but such as will keep us in the fear of the Lord all the day long, and

lead us to ask, What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits towards me? We therefore by the mercies of God, present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto Thee, which is our reasonable service.

And now, O Thou author of all good, we come to Thee for the grace another day will require — the grace its duties will require — the grace its events will require; for we know not when we leave our apartments in the morning what a day will bring forth. But we know that we are stepping into a wicked world, and that we carry about us an evil heart: we know that without Thee we can do nothing; and we know that there is nothing with which we shall have any concern in the day, however harmless in itself, but may prove an occasion of sinning and falling, unless we are kept by the power of God. We therefore desire to pray ourselves out of our own keeping, into thy keeping. Hold Thou us up and we shall be safe. Preserve our understandings from the subtilty of error; our affections from the love of idols; our senses from the ungovernable impressions of outward objects; our character from every stain of vice; our profession from every appearance of evil; and may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and may our whole spirit, soul and body, be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

May we engage in nothing in which we cannot implore thy blessing, and to which we cannot welcome thy inspection. Prosper us in our lawful undertakings, or prepare us for disappointment. Give us neither poverty nor riches. Feed us with food convenient for us; lest we be full and deny Thee, and say, Who is the Lord? or lest we be poor and steal, and take the name of our God in vain.

May every creature be good to us, being sanctified by the word of God and prayer. Teach us how to use the

world as not abusing it. Enable us to improve our talents and to redeem our time. May we walk in wisdom towards them that are without, and in kindness towards them that are within; and do good as we have opportunity unto all men, especially unto them that are of the household of faith.

And unto Him that is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy — to the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O Thou incomprehensibly great and glorious Jehovah, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who only hast immortality. We adore Thee and abase ourselves. Though we are allowed to approach Thee, we would not be mindless of the views and feelings which so well become those who as creatures are less than nothing, and as sinners are worse than nothing before Thee.

For if we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us: the heavens would reveal our iniquity, and the earth would rise up against us. And why should we endeavor to deny our guilt — since even our thoughts have not been screened from thy sight, and Thou hast set our most secret sins in the light of thy countenance: and why should we desire it — since we know that if we confess our sins, Thou art faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness? From a view, therefore, of their exceeding sinfulness, we would confess them with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, earnestly longing to be delivered from them, and be led in the way everlasting.

Enable us to remember that blood which cleanseth from all sin; to believe in that grace which can subdue all our iniquities; and to resign ourselves to that agency which can deliver us from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the sons of God. While many envy the men of the world who have their portion in this life, may we, with Moses, choose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. While many seek great things for themselves on earth, things which perish in the using, and afford no satisfaction in the possessing, may the prayer of David become ours, Remember me, O Lord, with the favor Thou bearest unto thy people; O visit me with thy salvation, that I may see the good of thy chosen, that I may rejoice in the gladness of thy nation, and glory with thine inheritance.

We sometimes hope that Thou hast already begun a good work in us; and to whom should we go for the continuance, the progress, and the completion, but to Thee, the God of all grace, and who art not only the author, but the finisher of our faith? We rejoice in what Thou hast done for others: in their deliverance and elevation we see what Thou art able and willing to do for us. We bless Thee for the promises upon which Thou hast caused us to hope; and in which Thou hast engaged to perfect that which concerneth us. We thank Thee for the means of grace, in the humble and diligent use of which Thou art pleased to draw near to those who draw near to Thee.

May we love the closet as well as the temple; and do Thou sanctify to us, not only the preaching of the gospel, but also the reading of thy word. Believing with a faith unfeigned that it is given by inspiration of God, may we find it profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness. In every perplexity,

may it be the man of our counsel; may we repair to it in every distress; and in the multitude of our thoughts within us may thy comforts delight our souls.

May we have an increasing conviction of our liableness to err, and our exposure to sin, that we may place ourselves under thy guiding and guardian care. As we see the vanity of the world, and meet with trials and disappointments, may we take a firmer hold of that covenant which is ordered in all things and sure; and may *this* be all our salvation and all our desire, when our house is not so with God, and Thou makest it not to grow. May we rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, and continue constant in prayer.

May we feel more of the purifying, more of the dignifying, more of the softening, influence of the religion we profess. May we have compassion one of another; love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous. May we never render railing for railing, but contrariwise blessing: may we not be overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

May we never incur the curse of the angel of the covenant, for not coming to the help of the Lord. May we deem it an honor to be employed by Thee, and long to be instruments in thy hands. Ready to seize every opportunity of usefulness, and willing to use all our talents in thy blessed service, may we daily ask, Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?

Bless our country. May we be for a name and a praise unto Thee in the whole earth. Largely have we been the recipients of thy goodness, and freely may we give. Sanction the institutions and efforts by which we are endeavoring to spread the benefits of the gospel. God be merciful unto *us*, and bless *us*, that his way may be known on earth, his saving health among all nations.

O remember the number called in various ways to suf-

fer. Bless their daily rod as well as their daily bread. May they feel impressions which shall never wear off; may they learn such lessons as shall never be forgotten; may they enjoy such consolations as shall enable them to say, It is good for me that I have been afflicted.

And to God only wise be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.

O Thou everlasting God, the creator of all the ends of the earth, and the father of the spirits of all flesh — We have destroyed ourselves, but in Thee is our help. Our nature is defiled; all the powers of our souls are degraded; we are vile, we are miserable, we are without strength. We condemn ourselves, and confess that we deserve to perish. If ever we are saved, it must be by goodness the most undeserved and astonishing; not only by mercy, but abundant mercy; not only by grace, but the exceeding riches of thy grace.

And such mercy and grace Thou hast been pleased to reveal and to promise and to exemplify. Thou hast told us thy designs, and unlike the forebodings of our guilty minds, they are thoughts of peace and not of evil.

We bless Thee for devising means to rescue us from the perdition of sin, and restore us to a state of happiness and honor and safety, superior to our original condition. We bless Thee for the provisions of the everlasting covenant, and for the constitution of a Mediator between Thee and us. We rejoice that He failed not, nor was discouraged, but accomplished the work that was given Him to do, and said on the cross, It is finished. We exult in the thought that now thy justice is satisfied, thy truth estab-

lished, thy law magnified, and a foundation laid even in thy own glory for our hope.

May we look after present and personal interest in Christ, and never rest till we can say, Surely He hath borne our grief, and carried our sorrow; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and by his stripes we are healed. May we know that in Him we have righteousness and strength, and are blessed with all spiritual blessings. While we are justified by his blood, may we be saved by his life. While we glory in his cross, may we bow to his sceptre, and long to have the same mind in us which was also in Him, knowing that if we have not the spirit of Christ we are none of his.

We are convinced that it is our happiness as well as duty to walk in thy ways, to keep thy statutes, and to submit to thy appointments; but we are equally convinced that thy grace alone is sufficient for us, and that without Thee we can do nothing. We cannot even stand, but as we are upholden by thy free Spirit. But with Thee is the residue of the Spirit: and Thou hast engaged to give thy Holy Spirit to them that ask Thee: yea, Thou hast said, Open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it. Bless us therefore with constant and increasing supplies of grace and strength; work in us to will and to do of thy good pleasure; and fulfil in us all the good pleasure of thy goodness, and the work of faith with power.

May our religion, instead of being an occasional and partial thing, be universal and invariable in its influence and effects. May we be in the fear of the Lord every day, and all the day long. May we hold communion with Thee in thy works as well as in thy word, and in the dispensations of thy providence as well as in the ordinances of thy house.

May we always distinguish between the form of godli-

ness and the power thereof; and between life and a name to live. What is the hope of the hypocrite, though he hath gained, when Thou takest away his soul? O make us Israelites indeed in whom is no guile. Often may we examine ourselves, and inquire whether our religion will bear the eye of God. If we are not right, set us right and keep us right. Seach us, O God, and know our heart; try us, and know our thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in us, and lead us in the way everlasting.

Impress us with a conviction of the vanity of the world, and the brevity and uncertainty of the time of our continuance here; that we may keep the end of life in view, and apply our hearts unto wisdom.

We are ignorant, and liable to a thousand delusions; but Thou knowest what is good for us. To Thee therefore we commit our works and our way; and to Thee we refer the choice of our inheritance. Only be with us, and keep us in the path that we go, and give us bread to eat, and raiment to put on, so that we come to our Father's house in peace; and the Lord shall be our God.

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with us all, now and forever. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O God, Thou hast been the refuge and the dwelling-place of thy people in all generations. To Thee the poor and the needy have always repaired for succor; and they that know thy name, will put their trust in Thee. And to whom should we go, but unto Thee? Thou hast the words of eternal life. There is no blessing we can implore, but Thou art *able* to give, and hast *promised* to give,

and hast *given* already to a countless multitude, all unworthy and guilty like ourselves. Yea, Thou hast not spared thine own Son, but delivered Him up for us all; and wilt Thou not with Him also freely give us all things?

O make us more willing to receive the supply of all our need from thy riches in glory by Christ Jesus. And for this purpose convince us of sin. Show us our true character and condition in thy sight. Take away the stone out of our hearts, and give us hearts of flesh. May we feel and bewail our folly and ingratitude, our pride and unbelief, the rebellion of our lives, and the corruption of our nature. May we sorrow after a godly sort, and abhor ourselves, repenting in dust and ashes. Through the law, may we die unto the law, and despair of obtaining life but from thy own sovereign mercy. May we look with wonder and submission, and gratitude and delight, to the provision which Thou hast made for the glory of thy own name in the salvation of sinners. May we believe in Him whom Thou hast set forth as a propitiation for sin, and as the end of the law for righteousness. May we know Him in the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, and be made conformable unto his death.

Give us that hope which maketh not ashamed. Inspire us with that love which excites to all holy obedience. Pour into our hearts that joy of the Lord which is the strength of thy people, and enable us to say with Paul, The life that I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved *me* and gave himself for *me*.

And when we cannot pronounce on our own interest in divine things, may we still persevere in duty. May we wait on the Lord and keep his way; and be humble and earnest suppliants at thy footstool, assured that they who hunger and thirst after righteousness, are blessed — and shall be filled.

Preserve us from that levity and indifference which are

so unbecoming creatures who live continually under the eye of God, and are always on the brink of an eternal world. May we discover nothing like selfishness and unkindness, while professing to be the followers of Him who pleased not Himself; who when rich for our sakes became poor, and went about doing good.

Let us hold ourselves at thy disposal, not only with regard to the duties, but events of life. Whatever preferences we feel, may we submit them all to thy infinite wisdom, and say, Nevertheless, not my will but thine be done. If we are called to resign any of our enjoyments, may we remember that it is the absolute proprietor and our best friend who requires them, and yield them up in the spirit of him, who when stripped of all, could say, The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.

But make us thankful for the continuance of our comforts; and that in a world of such changes and misery our indulgences have been so many and our trials so few.

Especially would we be grateful for the means of grace and the ordinances of religion, which still await us, notwithstanding all our unworthiness and provocations. O Lord, teach us to profit by them more than we have done; and as to-morrow is the rest of the holy sabbath unto the Lord our God, may we be in the spirit on thy own day, and enter it in a state of mind suited to its solemnities, duties, and privileges. May we leave every thing worldly at the foot of the mount, while we go to worship God above. May we experience the blessedness of the man whose strength is in Thee, and in whose heart are the ways of them. May we go from strength to strength, and at last may every one of us in Zion appear before God.

O Lord God of hosts, hear our prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob. Behold, O God, our shield, and look upon the face of thine Anointed. Amen.

FOURTH WEEK.

SUNDAY MORNING.

O Thou most high! Thine eyes are in every place beholding the evil and the good; thine eyes behold, and thine eye-lids try the children of men. We hope we can appeal to thy omniscience, and say, In the way of thine appointments, we are now waiting for Thee, while our desire is to thy name, and to the remembrance of Thee.

We are sinners, but not insensible of our state. Our iniquities are great and numberless; but with a broken heart and a contrite spirit we pray to be delivered from them, and led in the way everlasting. Our case is desperate in itself, but there is hope in Israel concerning this thing. The combined help of men and angels could not reach our misery; but Thou art adequate to our relief.

Thou art rich in mercy. The blood of Jesus Christ thy Son cleanseth from all sin. The agency of thy Holy Spirit can subdue the most powerful corruptions. Heal us and we shall be healed; save us and we shall be saved; for Thou art our praise. Hide thy face from our sin, and blot out all our iniquity. Create in us also, O God, a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within us. Illuminate our understandings with the light of life. May we know the truth, and may the truth make us free. Give us tender and wakeful consciences, and may they always smite and torment us when we sin against God. May we be consistent and uniform in the whole of our conversation and conduct; the same alone and in com-

pany; in prosperity and adversity; esteeming all thy commandments concerning all things to be right, and hating every false way—Israelites indeed, in whom there is no guile.

May we never be satisfied with any present progression in the divine life, but this one thing may we do, forgetting the things that are behind, and reaching forth unto those that are before, press towards the mark for the prize of our high calling of God in Christ Jesus. May we add to our faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity; and may all these things not only be in us but abound.

And while we never forget what is necessary to constitute the christian character, may we never neglect what is needful to complete it. May we cultivate the expedient and the lovely. May we be concerned to adorn the doctrine of God our Savior; to recommend the religion of Jesus to all around us; and to induce observers to say, We will go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.

Enable us to accommodate ourselves to the dispensations of thy providence, with the views and feelings of christians. May we know how to be abased, and how to abound; may we learn in whatsoever state we are, therewith to be content; yea, in every thing, may we give thanks, knowing that all the ways of the Lord are mercy and truth to those that trust in Him.

May we feel the ties that unite us to our fellow-creatures, especially to our fellow-christians. By sympathy, and praise, and prayer, may we make their mercies and miseries our own; rejoicing with them that rejoice, and weeping with them that weep.

Regard the sons and daughters of distress; and as afflictions are not immutable dispensations, and we are allowed to pray for temporal blessings conditionally, if it be thy pleasure command deliverance for them; or should thy wisdom continue the trial, keep them from sinking or sinning in the evil day; let thy strength be made perfect in their weakness; and in the multitude of their thoughts within them may thy comforts delight their souls.

Be with those who will pass the day in absence from thy dear abode. Though Thou art with thy people in trouble, yet Thou hast taught them by experience to value thy ordinances, and to esteem a day in the courts better than a thousand. O let them not pass an unprofitable, though a silent sabbath; let their meditation of Thee be sweet; and though not in thy house, may they be in thy spirit on thy own day.

And make those thankful who are exempted from spiritual privations, and have liberty and health and strength to go into thy house in the multitude of thy mercies.

We bless Thee that this is our privilege. May we know the day of our visitation, and embrace the things that belong to our peace. May we hear with solemnity of mind, knowing that for all these things God will bring us into judgment. May we hear with prayer, remembering that whoever may plant or water, Thou alone canst give the increase. May we be doers of the word, and not hearers only; and may we keep in memory what is preached unto us, that we may not believe in vain.

May we carry into ordinary life the various portions of divine truth which successively engage our attention, and use them as seasons and circumstances render them suitable: may its doctrines inform, its warnings caution, its rules guide, and its promises comfort us, till we have received the end of our faith, the salvation of our souls.

Bless the congregation in whose devotions we are to mingle. Let thy minister be clothed with salvation, and let thy saints shout aloud for joy. O thou holy and beautiful house, where our fathers praised Thee, peace be within thy walls; for our brethren and companions' sakes we will now say, Peace be within thee.

And bless, we beseech Thee, all thy churches and all thy servants of every name. Plead thy own cause. Build up Zion. Establish and make Jerusalem a praise in the whole earth. May many run to and fro, and knowledge be increased: and may all know Thee, from the least even to the greatest. Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

SUNDAY EVENING.

Quicken our souls to call upon thy name; pour upon us the spirit of grace and of supplication; and in our enlivened and enlarged experience, may we know that Thou art not only the gracious rewarder, but the almighty helper of them that diligently seek Thee.

For such, O God, is the ignorance of our minds, the vagrancy of our thoughts, the earthliness of our affections, and the unbelief of our hearts, that without Thee we can do nothing. But the preparation of the heart and the answer of the tongue are from Thee. Thy Spirit helps our infirmities. Thy grace is sufficient for us. Unite

our hearts to fear thy name: enable us to come even to thy seat; and may our fellowship be with the God of love.

May we approach Thee, not as the Eternal Jehovah only, but as our Father and our Friend, our exceeding joy, the strength of our heart, and our portion forever. May we not only exercise that faith by which we understand the worlds were made by the word of God; may we not only believe in Thee as the God of nature and providence, but in Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent, and sent to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. We feel discouragements resulting from our guilty fears, and find it hard to believe that on our return Thou wilt meet us in peace. We therefore bless Thee for the displaying of the exceeding riches of thy grace, in thy kindness towards us by Christ Jesus; and we rejoice in the blessed intelligence, that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their iniquities unto them.

These glad tidings we have this day been hearing. O Lord, Thou knowest how often we have heard the joyful sound; and Thou knowest the manner in which we have received it. We have reason to fear that many have received it in vain; that their hearing has only added to their guilt; and that their sabbaths have been only employed in treasuring up wrath against the day of wrath. O what would the spirits in prison give for one of our opportunities, one of our offers of mercy! How many now sitting in darkness and in the regions of the shadow of death, would exult at the entrance of that light, against which we shut our eyes, or which we behold with indifference!

Awaken, O Lord, in our consciences, the inquiry, How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?

May we believe the report we have this day heard; and keep in memory what has been preached unto us,

lest we believe in vain. May we hide thy word in our hearts, that we may not sin against Thee. May the truth as it is in Jesus illuminate in us all that is dark, sanctify in us all that is unholy, establish all that is wavering, comfort all that is wretched, and accomplish in us all the good pleasure of thy goodness and the work of faith with power, that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in us, and that we may be glorified in Him.

We sometimes hope Thou has commenced a good work in us; we hope that we have begun to see the evil of sin, to hunger and thirst after righteousness; that we are asking the way to Zion, with our faces thitherward; and are praying, Remember me, O Lord, with the favor Thou bearest unto thy people.

Command and enable us to go forward. Take us by the hand, and lead us on from strength to strength. Let the dawn break into the perfect day; and the blade become the full corn in the ear.

We live in a world of changes, but Thou art the same. May we know that Thou hast made with us an everlasting covenant ordered in all things and sure. We are pressing through a vale of tears, but we bless Thee for the opening glory at the end of it. Enable us to realize as our own, a better, even a heavenly country. Prepare us for every part of our pilgrimage; uphold our goings in thy word; and let no iniquity have dominion over us.

May we rejoice as though we rejoiced not, and weep as though we wept not, and buy as though we possessed not, and use this world as not abusing it.

We would sympathize with those who are in distress. Give to them that mourn in Zion, beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.

Bless all the institutions which are established to dif-

fuse the Scriptures and to send forth missionaries. Remember those who have gone forth to preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ. Preserve their health, their morals, their spirituality, their zeal; let them be examples of all they teach; and be Thou a little sanctuary to them among the heathen. May all the events that take place in the nations of the earth subserve the spread of the Redeemer's empire; and may we exult in the period when the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

And to God the Father, the Son, and Holy Ghost, be praises forever and ever. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.

The heavens declare thy glory, O God, and the firmament showeth thy handy work. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge; and there is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. We behold displays of thy wisdom, power, and goodness, in all thy works, from the largest of them to the least.

But Thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name; and we can never be sufficiently thankful for the revelation of thy will in the scriptures of truth. We bless Thee that this sacred volume has been preserved and translated and published and multiplied, so that we all have it in our possession, and can read in our own tongue the wonderful works of God. Here we see not only thy greatness, but thy grace; and not only thy pity, but thy rectitude; we see mercy and truth meeting together, righteousness and peace kissing each other. Here Thou hast shined in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of thy glory

in the face of Jesus Christ. For in Him Thou has reconciled the world unto thyself, not imputing their trespasses unto them. Thou hast made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. And Thou hast raised Him up from the dead, and given Him glory, that our faith and hope may be in God. May the hearts thus tenderly wooed be effectually won. At the view of this infinite kindness, may we resign all our unworthy and suspicious thoughts; and placing our confidence in Thee, return and say, Lord, I am thine, save me. Look Thou upon me, and be merciful unto me, as Thou usest to do unto those that love thy name.

We ask not to be enrolled among the rich and the great of this world, but to be numbered with those who are blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ. The graves are ready for us, and we shall soon be in a state that will render it a matter of indifference to us whether we have been rich or poor, whether we have filled a cottage or a palace; but it will be eternally important to us that we have been justified by thy grace, and sanctified by thy Spirit, and adopted into thy family. May we therefore be wise unto salvation; and make it our present, our supreme, our persevering concern, to obtain those blessings which are spiritual in their nature, eternal in their continuance, satisfying in their possession, and which unerringly indicate that we are the friends of God.

Preserve us from a false estimate of the whole of our character, or of any part of it. May we regard our principles, as well as our conduct; our motives, as well as our actions. May we never mistake the excitement of our passions, for the renewing of the Holy Ghost. May we never judge of our religion by occasional impressions

and impulses; but by our constant and prevailing disposition. May our heart be right with God, and our life such as becometh the gospel.

May we maintain a supreme regard to another and a better world, and feel and confess ourselves to be only strangers and pilgrims in this. How often, by bodily infirmities and pains, by relative afflictions, and by dissatisfactions growing out of every enjoyment — how often have we been told, O when shall we be taught, that this is not our rest? O God, not only command, but enable us to arise and depart hence. Afford us all the direction, all the defence, all the support, all the consolation, our journey will require. Give us in large abundance the supply of the spirit of Jesus Christ, that we may be prepared for every duty; that we may love Thee in all our mercies; that we may submit to Thee in every trial. May we trust Thee when we walk in darkness, and have no light; and amidst all the changes of the present, and the uncertainties of the future, may our minds be kept in perfect peace, being stayed upon God.

Hast Thou not made with us an everlasting covenant ordered in all things and sure? The very hairs of our head — are they not all numbered? Are not all thy ways mercy and truth? Lord, we believe; help Thou our unbelief.

And now unto Him that is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy — To the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.

O Lord, Thou art over all by thy providential agency, and rich unto all that call upon Thee in the exercise of thy mercy and grace. With Thee is the fountain of life, and in thy light shall we see light.

Help us to consider the way, the new and living way, in which a fallen creature can approach Thee with acceptance. May we behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. May we contemplate the dignity of *his* person, the perfection of *his* sacrifice, and the prevalency of *his* intercession, who is the great High Priest over the house of God. May we feel the distance between Thee and us done away, and rejoice that now in Christ Jesus, we who sometimes were far off, are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

A glorious high throne from the beginning has been the place of thy people's sanctuary: and we have found it good to be there. O what a resource is devotion! — When under all the toils that weary us, the cares that corrode us, the infirmities that press us down, the fears that disturb us — in every thing, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, we can make known our supplication unto God; and feel a peace which passeth all understanding keeping our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus!

We were as sheep going astray, but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls. Yet we feel the same grace that restored us, to be necessary to preserve us, and to supply us. And hast not Thou promised to lead us, to guard us, to suffer us to want no good thing, to make all grace to abound towards us? And art not Thou a faithful God, and able also to perform? Lord, we take Thee at thy word. Do as Thou hast said.

We have tasted that Thou art gracious, and the relish has provoked our desires after more; and they who hunger and thirst after righteousness, *are* blessed, and *shall* be filled. Make us to lie down in green pastures, and feed us beside the still waters, where we shall often exclaim, O how great is his goodness, and how great is his beauty.

We often meet with those who have far more grace than we ourselves have; but this only encourages our hope, since they were once poor, and He who supplied them is as rich as ever, and as accessible, and as free. We are continually meeting with duties and trials, which call for more grace than we have in ourselves; but not more than we have in our divine treasury, in whom it hath pleased Thee that all fulness should dwell. To Him therefore may we continually repair, and from his fulness receive, and grace for grace, till every void made by sin be replenished, and we ourselves filled with all the fulness of God. We bless Thee that Thou dost not despise the day of small things; but we aspire after a day of great ones. We are not straitened in Thee, may we never be contracted in ourselves; may our desires be enlarged, and our hopes emboldened; may we honor Thee by the entireness of our dependence, and the greatness of our expectation; and living and walking in the Spirit, may we go from strength to strength, and be changed from glory into glory, till we appear perfect before Thee in Zion.

We know not what a day may bring forth; nor would we, if it were in our power, draw back the veil that hides the future, and learn the times and the seasons which the Father hath put in his own power. But, O be Thou with us in all, and prepare us for all. Prepare us for the smiles of prosperity; prepare us for the frowns of adversity; prepare us for those losses in substance, and those

bereavements in friends so possible, so probable, in a world like this; prepare us for the days of darkness, for they may be many; prepare us for every change, and — prepare us for *the* change — and when heart and flesh fail us, and we have no more a portion in all that is done under the sun, be Thou the strength of our heart and our portion forever.

May our very memory be blessed. May those who follow us, praise God that we have ever lived; and may we leave behind us those instructions, examples, and effects, which shall glorify our God on earth, while our spirits have joined the spirits of just men made perfect in heaven.

And may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O Thou, whose name alone is Jehovah, the Most High over all the earth; we desire to adore the perfections of thy nature, and to admire the works of thy hands. May the united displays of thy greatness and thy goodness impress our minds, and influence our thoughts and affections while we approach Thee.

Heaven is thy throne, and the earth is thy footstool. The universe with all its myriads of creatures was made by thy word and is upholden by thy power; and Thou dost according to thine own will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: none can stay thy hand, or say unto Thee, what doest Thou?

But Thou art the Father of mercies; the God of all grace; and the God of all comfort. Even we, poor mean dying creatures, are not beneath thy care. Thou hast

been mindful of us; Thou hast visited us; and thy visitation hath preserved our spirits. The lines are fallen to us in pleasant places; yea, we have a goodly heritage. We live in a land of vision. We have the scriptures in our hands; and our ears hear the joyful sound of the gospel. We know that Thou hast not spared thine own Son, but delivered Him up for us all. We know that He has borne our grief, and carried our sorrow; that his blood cleanseth from all sin; and that whosoever believeth on Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.

We come in *his* name, and make mention of *his* righteousness only. We plead the obedience and sufferings of *Him* who magnified the law, both in its precept and penalty, and made it honorable. May we be justified by his blood; may we be saved by his life. May we be joined to the Lord and of one spirit with Him. May we deny ourselves and take up our cross and follow Him. May the agency of thy grace prepare us for all the dispensations of thy providence. May we be willing that the Lord should choose our inheritance for us, and determine what we shall retain or lose, what we shall suffer or enjoy.

If indulged with prosperity, may we be secured from its snares, and use its advantages as not abusing them. And may we patiently and cheerfully submit to those afflictions which are necessary to hedge up our way when we are tempted to wander, to excite an abhorrence of sin, to wean us from the present evil world, and to make us partakers of thy holiness. Only assure us, and we shall learn in whatsover state we are therewith to be content — only assure us that Thou wilt be with us in trouble, and that at the end of the vale of tears we shall enter Emmanuel's land, where the inhabitants no more say, I am sick; where our sun shall no more go down, nor our moon withdraw itself, but God shall be our everlasting light, and the days of our mourning shall be ended.

May our friends and relations be fellow-heirs with us of the grace of life. Let our house be the tabernacle of the righteous; let our children and servants be a seed to serve Thee, and among none of those who surround this family altar, may there be weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth, when thy shall see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of God, and they themselves shut out.

Lord, help us all to view our religious opportunities as talents for which we are accountable; to remember that our greatest danger results from our highest privileges; and to fear lest a promise being left us of entering into thy rest, any of us should seem to come short of it.

Thou hast determined the bounds of our habitation; and by the events of thy providence, many of those in whose society we delight are separated from us. When we are absent in body, may we be often present in spirit. We commend our absent friends and kindred to thy covenant care. May no evil tidings concerning them wound our hearts. Spare them in thy mercy; may we often embrace each other in circumstances of health and comfort; or if we have had our last interview on earth, may we all meet in our heavenly Father's house, and be forever with each other, and forever with the Lord.

In hope of which, with every other blessing, we devoutly ascribe to the only wise God our Savior, praise and glory everlasting. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.

O Thou King of Glory, we desire to approach thy divine majesty with reverence and godly fear, and to worship Thee in the beauty of holiness. Every perfection

adorns thy nature and sustains thy throne. The heavens are thine; the earth also is thine; the world is thine, and the fulness thereof. Thy power drew the universe from nothing. Thy wisdom has managed all its multiplied concerns, presiding over nations, families, and individuals, and numbering the very hairs of our head. Thy goodness is boundless: the eyes of all wait upon Thee, and Thou givest them their meat in due season: Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing. How precious are the thoughts of thy mercy and grace — and so excellent is thy loving kindness, that even the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wing.

Thou art the blessed and happy God. O teach us to place our happiness in thyself. May we never seek the living among the dead, nor ask, with the deluded many, Who will show us any good? but may we prize the light of thy countenance, implore the joy of thy salvation, and passing by the attractions of creatures, be able to say, Whom have I in heaven but Thee, and there is none upon earth that I desire beside Thee.

Thou hast been infinitely more attentive to our happiness than we ever have been or ever can be. Thou madest man upright, and when by voluntary transgression we fell away from Thee, Thou didst not treat us with the severity or the neglect we deserved. In thy love and pity Thou wast pleased to provide for us a Savior, who bore our grief and carried our sorrows, and put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

Apply this redemption to our hearts, by the justification of our persons and the sanctification of our natures. We confess our transgressions — have mercy upon us. We are weary — give us rest. We are ignorant — make us wise unto salvation. We are helpless — let thy strength be made perfect in our weakness. We are poor and needy

— bless us with all the unsearchable riches of Christ. Having begun a religious course, may we run and not be weary, and walk and not faint. And though perplexities and trials and dangers await us, yet may we travel on, unchecked and undismayed, knowing that Thou hast said, I will never leave thee nor forsake thee.

Thus far, blessed be thy name, Thou hast led us on, and we have found Thee faithful to thy promises. We have had our sorrows; but Thou hast been a very present help in every time of trouble. We have had our fears; but Thou hast not suffered the enemy to triumph over us. We have sometimes been on the verge of despair, and have said, I am cast out of thy sight; but we have been enabled to look again towards thy holy temple, and the shadow of death has been turned into the morning. Hitherto hath the Lord helped us. Thy vows are upon us, O God; we will render praises unto Thee. For Thou hast delivered our souls from death: wilt not Thou deliver our feet from falling, that we may walk before God in the light of the living?

We would feel the connexions which unite us to others, and by sympathy and prayer and praise, make their miseries and mercies our own. We would rejoice with those that rejoice, and weep with those that weep. Provide support and employment for the poor, and may their hands be sufficient for them. Make the widow's heart to sing for joy; and in Thee may the fatherless find mercy. Visit those that are on beds of sickness, and prepare them for thy pleasure; that if they live, it may be to serve Thee; and they die, it may be to enjoy Thee. Bless our nation. May every department of our government be under the control of infinite wisdom and goodness; and let righteousness and peace be the stability of our times. Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion; build Thou the

walls of Jerusalem; and may all our churches, like the original disciples, continue steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine, and in fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Protect and refresh us through the night season; and then cause us to hear thy loving kindness in the morning; for in Thee do we trust: cause us to know the way wherein we should go, for we lift up our souls unto Thee. We implore it through the intercession of thy dear Son and our Savior.

And blessing and honor, and glory and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb, forever and ever. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O God, Thou art incomprehensible, and in none of thy works and ways can any of thy creatures find Thee out unto perfection. Yet Thou hast not left thyself without witness, nor called us to worship an unknown God. Thou hast been pleased to reveal thyself to us as far as our wants and welfare require; and among other endearing characters we can discern Thee as a God hearing prayer.

Thou never saidst to the seed of Jacob, Seek ye me in vain. A glorious high throne from the beginning has been the place of thy people's sanctuary. And thither would we repair, in all our difficulties, necessities, and distresses, and find it good to draw near to God. Possess us with the spirit of grace, which is always a spirit of supplication. May we live in a prayerful frame of mind, that will always allow of our immediate and pleasing intercourse with Thee: in the ordinary concerns of life

may our thoughts and desires often ascend the skies; and in habitual devotion may we find a resource that will soothe our sorrows, sanctify our successes, and qualify us for all our dealings with our fellow creatures.

We bless Thee that Thou hast made us capable of knowing Thee, the Author of all being; of resembling Thee, the perfection of all excellency; and of enjoying Thee, the source of all happiness. Though we are unworthy to share in thy loving kindness, it is thy pleasure that we seek after it; and Thou hast said, Their hearts shall live that seek God. Therefore look Thou upon us, and be merciful unto us, as Thou usest to do unto those that love thy name. May we be accepted in the Beloved, and know that in Him we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of our sins. May we view Him as the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth; and as the source of all that grace by which we are renewed in the spirit of our minds. May we always contemplate our duties in connexion with those promises which ensure ability for the performance of them; and while weak in ourselves, may we be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might.

Attend us, O God, in every part of our arduous and trying pilgrimage. We need the same counsel, the same defence, the same comfort, we implored at the moment of our setting out. Cast us not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from us. May we live in the Spirit, and may we walk in the Spirit. And may our path be as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

Let our religion be more obvious to our own consciences, and more perceptible to the eye of those around us. May all that see and hear us take knowledge of us that we have been with Jesus. While He is representing us in

heaven, may we represent Him on earth; while He pleads our cause, may we plead his, and be concerned in all things to show forth *his* praise, who is making all things work together for our good.

Arise, O God, and appear in thy glory. Give the word, and let the company of those that publish the glad tidings of thy kingdom be great. May thy house be filled with inhabitants, and thy table furnished with guests; and let all that love thy salvation, say continually, The Lord be magnified.

Be gracious to our absent connexions — our hearts' desire and prayer to God for them is, that they may be saved. Continue the gentleness of thy goodness to this household. To the care which has watched over us through another night, we give up ourselves in prospect of the duties and events of the day. Let thy presence go with us, and thy blessing attend us; and whether we wake or sleep, may we live together with Christ. In whose words we address Thee, as Our Father who art in heaven; hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O Thou ever blessed God, we desire to approach Thee, adoring thy perfections and admiring thy works, which are sought out of all them that have pleasure therein. May we feel becoming regards towards Thee as our Cre-

ator, the Preserver of men, and the Savior of sinners. — Thy name is most excellent in all the earth, and Thou hast set thy glory above the heavens. Thy compassions fail not, and therefore we are not consumed. We are filled with wonder at thy condescension in noticing creatures so poor and worthless, and at thy mercy and grace in providing for the deliverance and happiness of creatures so miserable and guilty. We can never sufficiently bless Thee that we were born in a christian country, where the true light shineth, and we can hear words whereby we may be saved. How suitable and encouraging are the discoveries, the invitations, and the promises of the gospel of peace. Here are announced pardon for rebels, liberty for captives, health for the sick, and a free, full, and everlasting salvation for them that are lost. Here we are informed that Thou hast not spared thine own Son, but delivered Him up for us all; that He has fulfilled and magnified the law; that his blood cleanseth from all sin; that in Him all fulness dwells; and that whosoever believeth on Him shall not be confounded.

In his beloved name we come, and avail ourselves of the plea which Thou thyself hast afforded us. For his sake be merciful unto us, and bless us, and cause thy face to shine upon us that we may be saved. May we be justified by his blood, and have access into that grace, wherein we shall stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. May thy image be reimpressed upon our souls, in knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness. May thy Holy Spirit take full possession of our hearts, and lead us into all truth, and enable us to walk in all thy commandments and ordinances blameless; may we be fruitful in every good word and work to do thy will.

Raise us above the world. May we feel neither its frowns nor its smiles where duty is concerned. May it ever be a light thing with us to be judged of man's judg-

ment. May thy approbation be our only aim, and thy word our only rule; and with Enoch may we all enjoy the testimony that we please God. Keep us from, or preserve us in, the hour of temptation. May we abhor and avoid whatever would grieve thy Holy Spirit, and cause Thee to hide thy face from us. May we walk in the fear of the Lord, that we may walk in the comforts of the Holy Ghost; and may we always suspect the confidence and consolation which can be enjoyed along with a worldly temper and a careless conversation.

May we have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them; yet may we in meekness instruct those who oppose themselves, and be gentle and patient towards all men. And may we *do*, as well as *teach*. May we be not only professors of the gospel, but examples, displaying in every relation and office and condition of life, its excellency, loveliness, and advantages, that we may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men, and even constrain them to glorify God in the day of visitation.

How well does it become us to be humble! How little have we illustrated our principles, or improved our advantages. How often have we injured, instead of recommending, the cause of our Redeemer! How little have we served our generation; and how few are those to whom we have been a blessing! In many things we have offended, and in all come short of thy glory. Pardon our iniquity, for it is great.

Forgive the imperfections, omissions, and sins, of another day, and make us thankful for the continuance of its numberless blessings.

Shelter us through the night; and in the morning, with renewed strength and grateful hearts, may we rise to love Thee more and serve Thee better than we have done this day — through our Lord and Savior. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O Lord our God, blessed is the man whom Thou choosest, and causest to approach unto Thee. In thy presence there is fulness of joy, and at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore. With Thee is the fountain of life, and in thy light alone can we see light.

We therefore intreat thy favor with our whole heart. We acknowledge that we have forfeited all claims to it; and if we had no better ground of hope than our deservings, we must sink into despair. For against Thee, Thee only have we sinned, and done evil in thy sight, that Thou mightest be justified when Thou speakest, and clear when Thou judgest.

But with Thee there is mercy, and with Thee there is plenteous redemption. We bless Thee for the assurance that Thou hast sent thy own Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. We rejoice that neither the number nor heinousness of our transgressions is a bar to that forgiveness which is founded on the sufferings and sacrifice of the cross. The blood of Jesus Christ, thy Son, cleanseth from all sin. By the blood of that covenant which He has ratified, send forth thy prisoners out of the pit wherein there is no water. Graciously absolve us from all our guilt, and pronounce our discharge from all condemnation, not only in the court of heaven, but in the court of conscience, that being justified by faith, we may have peace with God, and enjoy the glorious liberty of his children.

But, O save us from the hope of the hypocrite which shall perish. Never suffer us to impose upon ourselves in any thing that relates to our eternal state. May we never suppose that we are in Christ, unless we are new

creatures; or that we are born of the Spirit, unless we mind the things of the Spirit. May we never rest satisfied with any professions of belief, or any outward forms or services, while the heart is not right with God. May we judge of our sincerity in religion by our fear to offend Thee; by our concern to know what Thou wilt have us to do; and by our willingness to deny ourselves, and take up our cross and follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth.

May nothing render us forgetful of thy glory; may nothing turn us aside from thy commands; may nothing shake our confidence in thy promises. Take from us the evil heart of unbelief — the cause of all our waverings and wanderings. May we believe, that we may be established in our goings, and be always abounding in the work of the Lord.

Prepare us for whatever we have to meet with between this morning and the grave. We know not what lies before us; but Thou knowest, and thy grace can make us sufficient for every service and every suffering.

Let not our temporal occupations ever injure our spiritual concerns, or the cares of this life make us forget or neglect the one thing needful. May we learn the holy art of abiding with God in our callings; of being in the world without being of it; and of making every thing not only consistent with religion, but conducive to it.

May we do and may we say nothing by which we shall offend against the generation of thy children. If strong, may we bear the infirmities of the weak, and not please ourselves. If preserved, may we restore a brother that has been overtaken in a fault, in the spirit of meekness, considering ourselves lest we also be tempted.

Bless those who have done us good, and render sevenfold into their own bosom; and forgive those who have done us evil, and enable us to forgive them.

Bless those who are near and dear to us; may they be near and dear to Thee. Bless them in their outward comforts; but above all may their souls prosper.

Be gracious to our native land. Be mindful of our rulers. Teach our senators wisdom; and so control the minds and hearts of those who are entrusted with the public welfare as that they may glorify Thee and secure the best good of the people. Bless the gates of Zion, and all the dwellings of Jacob. Let thy secret reside in the families of them that fear Thee and may those that have neglected to call upon thy name, immediately adopt the resolution of Joshua, As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

This morning sacrifice we offer in the all prevailing name of our adorable Redeemer — and unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God, and to his Father, to Him be glory and dominion, forever and ever. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O God, by the return of this hour of devotion, Thou hast again said, Seek ye my face; and our hearts have answered, Thy face Lord will we seek.

We value every opportunity of approaching Thee, not only as our duty, but as our unspeakable privilege. We rejoice that there is opened a new and living way into the holiest of all; and that as we enter, we can see Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and hear the voice of the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel. We are unprofitable servants. Our obedience, instead of meriting recompense, deserves condemna-

tion for its numerous defects. We are ashamed even of our devotions; and often question, whether any part of our religion will bear the eye of God.

But it is our encouragement, that if we cannot come to Thee as saints, we may come as sinners, with the assurance that Thou wilt in no wise cast us out. We therefore come as sinners — yet sinners who hate themselves for their abominations, and long for deliverance. Hear the groaning of the prisoners, and loose those who are appointed unto death. Heal us, and we shall be healed; save us, and we shall be saved, for Thou art our praise. Save us from the curse of the law which we have violated; save us from the power and love of every sin; save us from an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; save us from the present evil world; save us from our adversary the devil, who goeth about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour — that being delivered out of the hands of our enemies, we may serve Thee without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Thee, all the days of our lives.

We sometimes hope Thou hast begun a good work in us, and we take comfort from the assurance that Thou wilt perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. We ought to be humble, but we would not be ungrateful, nor refuse to acknowledge what Thou hast done for our souls; for by thy grace alone we are what we are. Thou hast shown us the evil of sin, and the beauty there is in holiness: Thou hast led us to hunger and thirst after righteousness; we glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ; we long to be conformed to his example; and we have taken hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, and have said, We will go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.

O Thou, who despisest not the day of small things, perfect that which concerneth us. May we not only have hope, but abound in hope; may we not only have faith, but be rich in faith; may we not only be fruitful, but be filled with all the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ unto the glory and praise of God.

Let us not be of the number of those who are always learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. May we have clear and consistent views of divine truth; and may every doctrine we admit into our judgments have a powerful influence over our hearts. May it bring as well as reveal salvation, and teach us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to live soberly, righteously, and godly, in the present world. May the love of God subdue the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life, and whatever is not of the Father, but is of the world.

May we love our neighbor as ourselves, and never hide ourselves from our own flesh. May we look, not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others, and especially the things that are Jesus Christ's.

May we never crucify Him afresh and put Him to an open shame. May we rather die than cause his worthy name to be blasphemed. May our devoted hearts be hourly asking, What shall I do for Him, who when rich for our sakes became poor, and died that we might live? May He obtain the purchase of his blood in our revolted world. May He see of the travail of his soul and be satisfied. Let all kings fall down before Him, and all nations serve Him. And blessed be his glorious name forever, and let the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O Thou ever blessed God! It is good for us to draw near to Thee; and if we had no other privilege to be thankful for, we ought continually to praise Thee for permission and encouragement to approach the throne of thy grace, there to spread before Thee all our wants and all our desires.

We are not worthy of the blessing; we are not worthy of the least of all thy mercies. We are far gone from the original righteousness in which we were created; and the depravity of our nature has appeared in the disobedience and rebellion of our lives. How early did we discover tendencies to discontent, and pride, and envy, and revenge. Remember not against us the sins of our youth, nor the multiplied transgressions of riper years — our misimproved time and talents, our abused mercies and means, our wasted and perverted sabbaths and seasons of grace, our neglect of thy great salvation, and our disregard of the Friend of sinners who loved us so as to die for us.

Our iniquity is increased over our head, and our trespass is gone up into the very heaven. While we confess our guilt, may we individually and deeply feel it, and be filled with self-abhorrence and self-despair.

But help us to remember, that there is hope in Israel concerning this thing. Enable us to hear the voice that proclaims, Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sins of the world. Through Him may we return to Thee, and find Thee a God ready to pardon sin and able to subdue it. Through Him may we give up ourselves to Thee, as our portion to enjoy and our master to serve forever. At thy footstool, in the spirit of submission, may we ever say, Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth. May

we not only obey, but delight to do thy will; yea, may thy law be within our heart.

Conscious of our danger, may we watch; and sensible of our inability to keep ourselves, may we pray — lest we enter into temptation. Hold Thou us up and we shall be safe. Preserve our understandings from error; our affections from the love of idols; our lips from speaking guile; our conduct from every stain of vice; and our character from the very appearance of evil.

And may we not only be harmless and blameless, the sons of God without rebuke; but may we be exemplary and useful, holding forth the word of life, and adorning the doctrine of God our Savior in all things. If the Savior has manifested himself to us as He does not unto the world, may we declare that which we have seen and heard unto others, that they also may have fellowship with us; and having tasted that the Lord is gracious ourselves, may we ever be saying to those around us, O taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that trusteth in Him. And may we walk in wisdom towards them that are without. May our efforts be guided by prudence, as well as animated by zeal. May we distinguish things that differ; and — not by a sacrifice of principle, but by a judicious use of circumstances and opportunities, may we become all things to all men, if by any means we may gain some. And O let our endeavors be successful, that we may be the honored instruments of converting sinners from the error of their ways, saving souls from death, and hiding a multitude of sins.

Especially may our solicitude and exertion be available with regard to our connexions and relations. Let those who are dear to us in the bonds of nature or friendship become fellow-heirs with us of the grace of life, and fellow-laborers with us in the Lord's vineyard.

Let the rising generation be a seed to serve Thee. Excite them by the command, Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth; and encourage them by the promise, I love them that love me, and they that seek me early shall find me.

Regard the aged. Alarm the old in sin; convince them that it is high time, and that it will shortly be too late to seek the things that belong to their everlasting peace. Support those who have long known Thee, and whose gray hairs as a crown of glory are found in the way of righteousness. Cast them not off in the time of old age, and forsake them not when their strength faileth.

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make us perfect in every good work, to do his will, working in us that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O God, thy command and thy promise, our duty and our privilege, induce us to avail ourselves of every opportunity of approaching the throne of thy grace. We are all indigence and inability. It is not in the power of men and angels to reach our case, and afford us the blessings we so much need and so much desire. Our only hope is in the name of the Lord God who made heaven and earth.

But Thou art over all, and rich unto all that call upon Thee; and Thou Lord hast not forsaken them that seek Thee. We love to reflect upon the displays of thy perfections, and to contemplate what Thou hast done for

others as poor and destitute, as sinful and guilty, as we are, and to remember that thy hand is not shortened that it cannot save, nor thy ear heavy that it cannot hear.

Behold a company of suppliants at thy footstool, in all the effects of the fall, and let our ruined condition be under thy agency. O Thou God of all grace, work Thou in us to will and to do of thy good pleasure; and vile as we are in ourselves, make us an eternal excellency, the joy of many generations. Our understandings are darkened. Our hearts are hearts of stone. Our very conscience also is defiled. Our affections are earthly and sensual. Open Thou the eyes of our understanding. Give us hearts of flesh. Purify our consciences from dead works to serve the living God. Set our affections on things that are above; and as He who has called us is holy, so may we also be holy in all manner of conversation and godliness.

Deliver us from the bondage of corruption and bring us into the glorious liberty of thy children; that being made free from sin, and become servants unto God, we may have our fruit unto holiness, and our end everlasting life.

Preserve us from all self-delusion, especially where our souls are concerned. May we never be flattered by the good opinion of our fellow-creatures, against the convictions of our own consciences; but remember that if our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts, and knoweth all things. May we never substitute mere opinions and outward forms and ceremonies, in the room of that grace which renews the soul and sanctifies the life. Ever keep alive in our minds the belief that in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature; and in the examinations of our religious state and character, may we look after that kingdom which is not meat and drink, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Inspire us with a well grounded hope of being one day presented before the presence of thy glory; when we shall see Thee without obscurity, approach Thee without sin, serve Thee without imperfection, and enjoy Thee without sorrow. How remote now do we often feel from this exalted state! And how improbable does it frequently seem, that we should ever attain it! We have never yet been better than a bruised reed and a smoking flax; and thy patience alone could have borne with our imperfections and perverseness. Yet we trust the root of the matter is found in us; and we bless Thee, if thy grace — by which alone we are what we are, has caused us to loathe sin — and abhor ourselves, and to hunger and thirst after righteousness, and to place our happiness in serving and enjoying Thee.

And we pray that our path may be as the shining light that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. Complete that which is lacking in our faith. Lead us into all truth, and establish our hearts with grace. Fill our minds with the sublime and elevating objects of revelation, that worldly things may find no room in our minds; and keep near us all the affecting and awful motives of the gospel, that we may not be able to sin, but in the view of thine all-seeing eye, a burning world, a judgment to come, and the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

And the Lord make us also to increase and abound in love one towards another, and towards all men. Let all bitterness and wrath, and anger and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from us with all malice; and may we be kind one towards another, tender hearted; forgiving also one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven us.

Prepare us for all the duties and trials that lie before us. We bless Thee for thy promises, which provide

against every want we feel, and for every condition in which we can be found. In God will we praise his word. In God have we put our trust. We will not fear what flesh can do unto us. Thou tellest our wanderings. Put Thou our tears into thy bottle. Are they not in thy book?

We commend ourselves, with all our relations and friends, this evening, to thy forgiving mercy and providential care. O Thou, that givest thy beloved sleep, indulge us with refreshing repose; or if Thou holdest our eyes waking, in the night may thy song be with us, and our prayer unto the God of our life. Guide us by thy counsel through life, and afterwards receive us to glory.

And to the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, forever and ever. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.

O Thou who hast said, I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me, and before all the people will I be glorified; may we have grace whereby we shall serve Thee acceptably with reverence and godly fear. Thou inhabitest eternity, but our age is as nothing before Thee. Thy understanding is infinite, but we know nothing. Thou art Almighty, but we are crushed before the moth. Thou art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, but we are vile — what shall we answer Thee? We cannot answer Thee for one of a thousand of our transgressions; and had we followed the forebodings of our consciences, we could not have approached Thee.

But Thou hast proclaimed thy name, the Lord God, merciful and gracious; Thou hast caused all thy goodness to pass before us; Thou hast opened a new and living way into the holiest of all, by the blood of Jesus;

and we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of Him.

We bless Thee that in Him all fulness dwells, and that ignorant and guilty and depraved and miserable as we are in ourselves, from Him we can derive wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. And we rejoice that these blessings are attainable without money and without price, and that we may know they are ours by every title God himself can give, and shall be ours forever.

And is this the manner of man, O Lord God? O let such undeserved, such infinite goodness, melt our hearts, and lead us to throw down the weapons of rebellion and weep over them. May we sorrow after a godly sort, that ever we offended a being so worthy of all our love and our obedience; and while compelled to acknowledge, with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, O Lord, other lords beside Thee have had dominion over us, enable us to say, But henceforth by Thee only will we make mention of thy name. As our reasonable service, to Thee may we dedicate ourselves immediately without delay, and fully without reserve. To Thee may we yield our understanding and our intellectual powers; our wills and our active powers; our senses and our bodily powers; our time, our substance, and all our relative powers; may our words and our actions and our callings in life, be all holiness unto the Lord.

May we come out from the world, and touch not the unclean thing, and be received and acknowledged as the sons and daughters of the Lord Almighty. And though they are few in number, and the world knoweth them not, may we choose thy people as our companions, and delight in them as the excellent of the earth. With them at thy gates may we daily watch, and wait at the posts of thy doors; with them may we courageously fight the

good fight of faith; with them may we patiently labor in thy vineyard.

May we love them all; and as we have opportunity, may we unite with them all in holy communion, and co-operate with them all in schemes of civil and sacred beneficence. We bless Thee for the country and the age in which we live. We bless Thee for the spirit which has been awakened, and the efforts that are now making, to promote the temporal, and above all the spiritual welfare of mankind, by individuals and communities, and combinations of communities. O let them not labor in vain; let the pleasure of the Lord prosper in their hand; let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children; and let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish Thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands, establish Thou it.

And prepare us for suffering thy will as well as doing it. May we never look for unmingled felicity here, but expect to find life, as all who have gone before us have found it, light and darkness, pain and pleasure, good and evil. When we meet with trials, may we never think them strange things, nor murmur and repine under them. Rather may we be thankful that they are so few and alleviated; rather may we rejoice that they are all founded in love to our souls, and designed to make us partakers of thy holiness. Sustain us under them; improve us by them; and assure us in due time of our deliverance from them, and of our entering the rest that remains for the people of God, where all sorrow and sighing shall cease, and all tears shall be wiped from our eyes.

And may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with us all, now and forever. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O God! Thou art the God of all the families of the earth; for they are formed by thy will and supported by thy providence. But Thou art in a peculiar manner the God of those families in which thy name is known and loved and honored. Thy curse is in the house of the wicked, but Thou blessest the habitation of the just. Whatever be the dispositions of others, we desire to say, with increased resolution and zeal, As for us, and our house, we will serve the Lord. Thy yoke is easy, thy burden is light, thy work is honorable and glorious, and in keeping thy commandments there is great reward. Thou art the best of all masters; Thou hast promised to bear with our infirmities, and to suffer us to want no good thing.

Already Thou hast laid us under infinite obligations, as the God of providence and of grace — Thou hast dealt well with thy servants, O Lord. Bless the Lord, O our souls, and all that is within us bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O our souls, and forget not all his benefits.

By thy good hand upon us, we have been conducted through the perils, not only of another day, but another week; a period during which many have been carried down to their graves, and we have been brought so much nearer to our own. Impress us with the lapse of our time, and so teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. Many have been involved in perplexities and exposed to want; many have been confined to the house of mourning or the bed of sickness; but we have been indulged with liberty and ease and health and strength; we have seen thy loving kindness every morning, and thy faithfulness every night; and have had all things richly to enjoy.

But, O how little have we been affected by the instances of thy undeserved goodness; how imperfectly have we improved our religious privileges; how negligent have we been in seizing opportunities of doing good to the bodies and souls of our fellow creatures. How well does it become us to exclaim, Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer Thee?—wherefore I abhor myself, repenting in dust and ashes.

We stand before Thee this evening in our trespasses. Enter not into judgment with thy servants, O Lord. Our only hope is, that to the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against Him. Have mercy upon us, O God, according to thy loving kindness; according to the multitude of thy tender mercies, blot out our transgressions.

And may a confidence in thy goodness, instead of encouraging us to sin that grace may abound, inspire us with that godly sorrow which worketh repentance unto life. May we hate and forsake every false way. May we be attentive to our condition, and study our character; may we bridle our tongue, and keep our heart with all diligence.

May we often look back and see how at any time we have been ensnared or overcome; and watch and pray in future, lest we enter into temptation. And do Thou keep us by thy power; uphold us by thy free Spirit; and not only restrain us from sin but mortify us to it.

May sleep refresh our bodies, and fit them for thy service on the ensuing day; and may thy grace prepare our minds. May we leave all the cares of the world for a while behind, that we may attend on the Lord without distraction. May we repair to the hallowed exercises of devotion, as the hart panteth after the water brooks. May we call the sabbath a delight; and be glad when they say to us, Let us go into the house of the Lord.

And O Thou God of all grace, do as Thou hast said; fulfil thy word unto thy servants, upon which Thou hast caused them to hope. Bless abundantly the provisions of thy house, and satisfy thy poor with bread. Clothe thy priests with salvation, and let thy saints shout aloud for joy.

And to the God of all grace, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

FIFTH WEEK.

SUNDAY MORNING.

O God, Thou art very great; Thou art clothed with honor and majesty; and it becomes us to approach Thee with reverence and godly fear. We can also come before Thee with humble confidence, for thy condescension equals thy grandeur, and thy goodness is thy glory.

If we are unworthy, we rejoice that we are not unwelcome. If we are guilty, Thou art gracious; if we are miserable, Thou art merciful; if we are all indigence, thy riches are unsearchable. By not sparing thine own Son, but delivering Him up for us all, Thou hast shown thy boundless compassion towards a perishing world, and proved that with Him Thou wilt also freely give us all things. Thus a foundation is laid for our hope, a refuge is opened for our safety, and a new and living way is consecrated into the holiest of all for our approach to Thee.

O bless us with that conviction of sin, that brokenness of heart, that self-despair, which will endear to us the gospel message as a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation; and induce us to say with the apostle, That I may win Christ, and be found in Him; that I may know Him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death. How happy are they that are found interested in Him! They are delivered from the wrath to come; they are justified from all things; they have peace with God; they are heirs of the glory that is to be revealed.

May we feel a holy and increasing concern to know whether these exalted privileges are claimable by us. For this purpose may we frequently and faithfully examine ourselves. May we search after that deadness to the world, that love to the Savior, that attachment to his house, that devotedness to his service, which characterize the subjects of his salvation.

And may these things not only be in us, but abound. It is an unspeakable blessing if we have life; but it is our duty and privilege to have it more abundantly. It becomes us to be thankful if Thou hast begun a good work in us; but we are allowed to pray that Thou wilt perfect that which concerneth us. According to the riches of thy glory therefore, strengthen us with might by thy Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in our hearts by faith; that we being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints, what is the height and depth, and breadth and length, and to know the love of Christ that passeth knowledge, that we may be filled with all the fulness of God.

May every part of our character and conduct be adapted to make, not only a serious, but an amiable impression on the minds of those around us; that they may take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, I will go with you, for I have heard that God is with you.

May all that we meet with in our passage through life, whether pleasing or painful, instead of injuring the prosperity of our souls, turn to our salvation, through prayer and the continual supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

Send us help this day from the sanctuary, and strengthen us out of Zion. We know that thine own appointments were never intended to make us independent of thy agency; without thy superadded blessing the best means will prove in vain. But Thou hast promised to

bless the provisions of thy house and to fill thy poor with bread. Thou hast said, In all places where I record my name, I will come unto thee and I will bless thee. And all have found Thee to be faithful to thy word. We have known Thee in thy palaces for a refuge; we have seen thy power and thy glory in the sanctuary, and have often praised Thee with joyful lips.

We therefore bless Thee for the return of these precious advantages. We pity those who are denied them. Sanctify their privations, and compensate the want of ordinances by thine own presence and communications. Enter as an instructer and comforter all the abodes of sorrow. Be the father of the fatherless, and the husband of the widow. Guide those who are perplexed; guard those that are tempted; and let all that love Thee, be as the sun when he goeth forth in his might. We ask it through the intercession of Him, who has taught us when we pray, to say, Our Father who art in heaven; hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

SUNDAY EVENING.

O God, the heavens declare thy glory. The earth is full of thy riches. The universe is thy temple. Thy presence fills immensity. It is thy pleasure to produce life, and to communicate happiness. From Thee we have derived all we are, and all we own; and in Thee we live

and move and have our being continued. Thy good providence has determined the bounds of our habitation, and wisely administered all our affairs.

But above all, we bless Thee for the exceeding riches of thy grace, in thy kindness towards us by Christ Jesus. Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift, and for the unclouded revelation of Him in the word of truth. There we behold his person and character, his grace and glory. There we see Him, when rich, for our sakes becoming poor, and dying that we may live; delivered for our offences, and raised again for our justification. May we deeply feel our need of this dispensation, in all its parts, and in all its influences; and with Peter exclaim, Lord, save, I perish; and with the publican, God be merciful to me a sinner.

Convince us of the pollution of sin, as well as of its guilt, that we may not only have our fear excited, but our aversion; that with Job we may see that we are vile; and abhor ourselves, repenting in dust and ashes. May we feel the necessity of renovation as well as forgiveness, in order to our serving and enjoying Thee in time and eternity. O Thou holy God, who hast no fellowship with iniquity, subdue in us the love of sin; create in us a clean heart, and renew in us a right spirit.

May we not be in the number of those who are always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth; but may our hearts be established with grace. May we never rest in a mere system of doctrine, however scriptural, that does not bring salvation, or teach us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to live soberly, righteously, and godly, in the present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God, and our Savior Jesus Christ. May we live in the spirit, and may we walk in the spirit; and instead of re-

lying on our own convictions and resolutions, may we be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might.

In all our duties, conflicts, and trials, may his grace be sufficient for us. To Him who gives rest to the weary and heavy laden, may we repair in all our spiritual distresses, in all our outward troubles, and in all the dissatisfactions experienced in creature enjoyments. From a world where all is vanity and vexation of spirit, may we retreat to Him who is full of grace and truth; a Friend that loveth at all times; who is touched with the feeling of our infirmities; and who is able to do for us exceeding abundantly above all we can ask or think.

Prepare us for our final hour, and for all the scenes through which we have to pass in the remainder of our pilgrimage. May we know how to be abased, and how to abound. May we learn in whatsoever state we are therewith to be content. May we stand complete in all the will of God.

Do us good by all thy dispensations; and especially sanctify to us all the means of grace. We bless Thee that we have been favored with another sabbath, and have had opportunities of repairing to the sanctuary, to mingle our prayers and praises with the devotions of thy people, and to hear the words of eternal life. We grieve to think that so much of the precious seed sown by thy servants should fall by the way-side, so much upon stony places, and so much among thorns, and that so little fruit is brought forth to perfection. May it appear that we have not received the grace of God in vain; but that thy word in us is like good seed sown in good ground, which springeth up and bringeth forth, in some an hundred fold, in some sixty, and in some thirty.

And suffer us not to confine our religion to extraordinary occasions; but help us to acknowledge Thee in

all our ways. May we never limit our devotion to particular seasons, but be in the fear of the Lord all the day long. May we be godly, not only on the sabbath, but in the week; not only in the house of God, but in our own. May our piety be not a dress, but a habit; not only a habit, but a nature — a life — the life of God. And at last, by thy grace and guidance, may we enter that world where there is no temple, but the glory of God and of the Lamb is the temple thereof.

But, O how can we endure to see the destruction of our kindred? O Lord, let those that are united to us by so many tender ties, be precious in thy sight, and devoted to thy praise. Sanctify and succeed domestic devotion and instruction, discipline and example; and may our houses be nurseries for heaven, from which our churches, as the gardens of the Lord, shall be enriched with trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.

O let none of those who are amiable and moral, and possess so many attractions, like the hopeful youth in the gospel, fall short of heaven at last.

Where the conscience is tender, and the heart is soft, and the word alarms or delights — let not these promising appearances be blasted, but bring forth judgment unto victory.

Bless all who are connected with us by religious ties. Save thy people, and bless thine inheritance; feed them also, and lift them up forever.

Regard us as a nation. Inspire all ranks and degrees of men among us with a love to that righteousness which exalteth a nation; and deliver us from that sin which is a reproach to any people.

And as all mankind, of whatever country or condition, are our brethren, bless them with the same civil and re-

ligious privileges which this highly favored land enjoys. Let thy way be known on earth, thy saving health among all nations.

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with us all, now and forever. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.

O God, thy greatness is unsearchable; but we rejoice to think that thy love passeth knowledge. We have sinned against Thee; but Thou art ready to forgive. We have gone far astray from Thee; but Thou art more than willing to admit our return. Thou hast even provided the way to accomplish it. Thou hast appointed and made known a Mediator, who has once suffered for sin, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us unto God. In Him we behold Thee reconciling the world unto thyself, not imputing their trespasses unto them. And in Him a multitude which no man can number, redeemed, justified, and renewed, are exulting, My soul shall be joyful in my God, for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, He hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

O that it were thus with us! O that we could ascertain our spiritual condition, and read our title clear to the inheritance of the saints in light! Praise waiteth for Thee, O God, in Zion; and we are longing to be able to adore Thee, as the strength of our souls and our everlasting portion. Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not. Him that cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out; whosoever will, let him come and take of

the water of life freely: — O say unto our souls, I am thy salvation.

And, O Lord, we hope that we are not concerned for our safety only; we trust we not only wish to know that we have the grace of God in truth, but to feel a progression in the divine life; to increase with all the increase of God. We wish to be qualified for our work, to stand complete in the will of our heavenly Father, and to adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.

Grant us therefore, we pray Thee, more of the supply of the spirit of Jesus Christ; to give more decision to our character, more vigor to our purposes, more elevation to our hopes, more fervor to our devotion, more constancy to our zeal, so that we may run and not be weary, and walk and not faint.

Thou dost not despise the day of small things, nor refuse to encourage a little strength; but Thou hast commanded us to grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior; and Thou hast said, To him that hath shall be given; and hast promised, that the feeble among them shall be as David. Be it unto us according to thy word. Fulfil all the good pleasure of thy goodness, and the work of faith with power, that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in us, and we in Him. May we be christianity embodied and alive. May we be examples of the religion we profess, the most impressive and attracting. May we have a testimony in the bosoms of those who observe us, that we are the seed which the Lord hath blessed; and may every thing around us say to them, Come with us, and we will do you good.

To Thee we desire to submit all our desires, and to Thee would we commit all our concerns, casting all our cares upon Thee, conscious that Thou carest for us. And

Who so fit to choose our lot,
Or regulate our ways—

as a being who loved us so as not to spare his own Son, who knows what is best for us in every circumstance, and is able to make all things work together for our good.

In every difficulty with which we are called to struggle, may we not only think of thy promises, but also call to remembrance the years of the right hand of the Most High. We have often been brought low, and Thou hast helped us; and when we have been looking for nothing but darkness, at evening time it has been light. O how does it betray our depravity, that after all thy kindness and care, after all the proofs of thy patience, power, and fidelity, we are yet so little capable of trusting in Thee. We would cry out with tears, Lord, we believe, help Thou our unbelief.

Do us good by all the dispensations of thy providence, especially those of an afflictive kind. And why should we consider them strange things, since Thou hast told us that in the world we shall have tribulation, and that the same afflictions have been accomplished in all our brethren? And why should we desire exemption from them? seeing they are founded in love and intended for our profit. May we ever realize thy design by them, and see thine hand in them; may we believe that Thou wilt be with us in trouble; and look forward with joy to that state where it will be safe for us to be without sorrow, and God shall wipe away all tears from our eyes.

And if we have a portion in this world, keep us from making this world our portion. May we never look for that in the creature which can only be found in the Creator; nor for that on earth which is only to be found in heaven. Among our caresses and indulgences, may we never lose the heart of a stranger, or forget that this is not our rest. May the streams of comfort lead us to the fountain of all good; and may we love and serve our Benefactor in all his benefits.

And thus may we know how to be abased, and how to abound; and in every varying condition, display the principles and dispositions of those who are born from above, and are seeking glory, honor, and immortality.

And to the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost, be ascribed all honor and praise, world without end. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.

O Thou, whose name alone is Jehovah. Thou art the Most High over all the earth; and Thou hast set thy glory above the heavens. All thy works praise Thee, O Lord, and thy saints bless Thee. Thou art our fathers' God, and we will exalt Thee; Thou art our own God, and early will we seek Thee, for in thy favor is life.

Open Thou our lips, and our mouth shall show forth thy praise. Thou hast made us, and not we ourselves. Thine eye did see our substance yet being imperfect, and in thy book all our members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there were none of them. Thou hast taught us more than the beasts of the field, and made us wiser than the fowls of the air. There is a spirit in man and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth him understanding. Thy providence has watched over us from our birth, supplied all our wants, arranged all our affairs, and determined the bounds of our habitation.

And O, what reason have we to exclaim, The lines are fallen to us in pleasant places, yea, we have a goodly heritage. We live in a land of religious privileges. How superior are our advantages to those of thine ancient people the Jews. The Sun of Righteousness, which was below the horizon to them, has risen upon us with healing

in his wings; and we are all the children of the day. Let us not therefore sleep as do others; but while we have the light, may we walk in the light, lest darkness come upon us.

May we ever be impressed with the conviction, that where much is given much will be required, and that our greatest danger results from our distinguishing advantages — our sabbaths, our sanctuaries, the scriptures of truth, the preaching of the gospel, and all the events which have urged our attention to it.

What more could have been done for us than Thou hast done? And yet how little fruit have we brought forth! How well do we deserve to be cut down as cumberers of the ground and cast into the fire. Yet, O Lord, spare us at the intercession of the Vinedresser; for his sake renew our season of trial, and employ fresh means for our improvement, and accompany them with a divine power. Convince us of our sin and danger. Awaken in us the solemn inquiry, What must I do to be saved? And let not our concern, when awakened, lead us into any refuge of lies, or induce us to build on any false foundation; but may we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and find his rest to be glorious.

Produce in us that brokenness of heart, and that self-despair, which will render the faithful saying worthy of all acceptation, and make the Saviour precious to us as He is to all them that believe. May He be delightful to us in all his offices; may we love Him in his commands, as well as in his promises; may we wear his yoke and carry his burden; and find his yoke easy and his burden light. Make us in our views, principles, and dispositions, new creatures; may we shine in all the beauties of holiness; and reflect the praises of Him who hath called us out of darkness into his marvellous light. Explain to us

thy secret which is with them that fear Thee; and show us thy covenant in its provisions and stability; and in every distress may this be all our salvation and all our desire.

With affections weaned from the world, and with evidences bright for heaven, all the days of our appointed time may we wait till our change comes; may we die, supported by the consolations of the gospel, and surrounded with the glory of God, and have an entrance ministered unto us abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior.

Prepare us for our passage as well as for our end. While we are here may we fulfil the duties and bear with firmness the trials of our respective stations; may we glorify our Father who is in heaven, and serve our generation according to his will.

Continue thy goodness to us as a family. Remember our absent friends. Let thy ministers enjoy thy presence, and thy churches be filled with thy glory. Let this nation be under thy care, and ever prove the seat of learning and science; of civil and religious freedom; of social blessedness; and of gospel privileges; and be the source of usefulness to the ends of the earth.

May princes come out of Egypt. May Ethiopia stretch forth her hands unto God. And may all nations whom Thou hast made come and worship before Thee.

For thine, O God, is the power; and thine shall be the glory, through our Lord and Savior. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O Lord God of hosts, hear our prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob; behold, O God, our shield, and look upon the face of thine Anointed.

It is in his dear and all-prevailing name we come. We have nothing of our own to plead; no works, no worthiness, no promises. We have all like sheep gone astray. We have been transgressors from our birth. We have knowingly opposed thine authority, and abused thy goodness. We have been ungrateful under thy indulgences, incorrigible under thy rebukes, and have improved none of our religious advantages. We stand before Thee in our trespasses, and are condemned by our own consciences as well as by thy word. Yet in the way of thine own appointment Thou art waiting to be gracious, and hast said, that whatsoever we ask, believing in his name, we shall receive.

Through Him display thyself in our experience, as a God pardoning and subduing iniquity. Justify us freely from all things; and sanctify us wholly, body, soul, and spirit. May we be thy workmanship, created in Christ Jesus, and prepared unto every good work. We groan within ourselves, longing, not only for deliverance from the wrath to come, but from the sin that dwelleth in us; and praying not only for an interest in thy favor, but a participation of thy image.

If Thou hast begun the good work in us, carry it on unto the perfect day. Assure us of present assistance and final success, whatever difficulties or oppositions we meet with; that we may go on our way rejoicing, and be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. If we feel little, — and O how little do we feel, — of the joys of thy

salvation, uphold us by thy free Spirit; and enable us to persevere in the path of obedience, and in the use of the means which Thou hast appointed, assured that none of those shall be ever ashamed that wait for Thee. And should we walk in darkness and have no light, may we trust in the Lord, and stay upon our God — Yet suffer us to implore that Thou wilt make thy face to shine upon us, and give us the full assurance of hope — which hope may we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, in all the storms of life.

We bless Thee for all that is past. Unless the Lord had been our help, our souls had almost dwelt in silence; but when we said, My feet slipped, thy mercy, O Lord, held us up. But we are still in the body and in the wilderness. We need thine aid as much as ever. We have a growing sense of our ignorance, weakness, and danger. Withdraw not thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from us. Whether we are called to do thy will or to bear it, may we feel that our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth. If our course conducts us through rough and trying scenes, say to us, Thy shoes shall be iron and brass, and as thy days so shall thy strength be. In view of our encounter with our spiritual foes, clothe us with the whole armor of God; teach our hands to war, and our fingers to fight; and in the midst of the conflict, tell our hearts that we shall be more than conquerors through Him that loved us.

And may we be concerned that the blessings we ask for ourselves may be imparted to others. Teach us to love our neighbor as ourselves; and may we often examine our conditions in life, our offices, our talents, and our opportunities, to see how we may be serviceable in our day and generation.

Comfort those that mourn in Zion. Let all the afflicted find Thee a very present and an all-sufficient help in the day of trouble. Provide for the poor and needy. Guide those that need instruction; and may integrity and uprightness preserve them while they wait upon Thee.

Sanctify and continue to us, and to our latest posterity after us, all our national blessings, civil and religious; and may our country, by its institutions, character, and usefulness, be a praise in the whole earth.

These are great blessings for such sinful creatures as we are to ask — but Thou hast given us a name to plead, which is above every name. Behold — not our guilt, but that blood which cleanseth from all sin; not our unworthiness, but that righteousness with which Thou art well pleased. And accept us in the beloved.

Our Father who art in heaven; hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.

O God, we are thine, and Thee we are bound to worship. We grieve to think how many there are who cast off fear and restrain prayer before Thee. But whatever be the determination of others, our purpose, by thy grace, is taken; and as for us and our house, we will serve the Lord.

We would not live a day or an hour without Thee in the world, careless of thy favor or regardless of thy glory.

Impress us individually and deeply with a sense of thine omniscience; that Thou art about our path and our lying down, and acquainted with all our ways. Especially may we feel it when we enter thy more immediate presence, and engage in the exercises of devotion. *Then* may we remember that thine eyes are upon us; that Thou requirest truth in the inward part; that nothing can screen even our motives and principles from thy penetration.

Too little, we acknowledge, has this been our experience in former engagements; we have often been careless where we should have been full of reverence; we have been strangers to the power of godliness while familiar with its forms. Thou hast been nigh in our mouths but far from our reins. Much of our guilt has originated from our religious means and privileges; from the low estimation in which we have holden them, the slight improvements we have made of them, the little they have contributed to our growth in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior.

Over all this may we sorrow after a godly sort; and may the sincerity of our repentance be seen in our future alarm and endeavors, and especially in our self-renunciation and dependence upon another — for when we are weak, then and then alone we are strong. May we every moment feel how necessary it is to be more intimate with Him who came, not only that we might have life, but that we might have it more abundantly; whose grace is sufficient for us; whose Spirit helps our infirmities, and can strengthen in us the things that remain, that are ready to die.

We bless Thee for an Advocate with the Father, for a propitiation of infinite value; for a fulness that filleth all in all. In Him, believing, may we rejoice with joy un-

speakable and full of glory. And may we know how to obtain relief for a guilty conscience, without feeling reconciled to our imperfections. May we abhor the thought of turning the grace of God into lasciviousness, or sinning that grace may abound. Because we are not under the law, but under grace, may we reckon ourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord — by thy mercies presenting our bodies a living sacrifice, and asking, What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits towards me? Through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth, may our affections be set on things that are above; and may this be the growing desire of our souls; O that my feet were directed to keep thy precepts.

We would not seek great things for ourselves, but be content with such things as we have. Deliver us, O Lord, from the love of money, which is the root of all evil. May we value our substance, not as the medium of pride and luxury, but as affording us the means of support and usefulness; and may we guide our affairs with discretion, that we may owe no man any thing, and be able to give to him that needeth. Establish in us the royal law: may we love our neighbor as ourselves; and feel it not only our duty but our pleasure, as we have opportunity, to do good unto all men; especially unto them that are of the household of faith.

Bless all the churches of the faithful. Thou hast given them rest; may they walk in the fear of the Lord, and in the comforts of the Holy Ghost, and be edified and multiplied.

Display thy power and thy glory in the sanctuary. Be with thy servants who show unto men the way of salvation. Make them wise to win souls; may they speak the things only that become sound doctrine; may they never

expect success as the result of their eloquence and reasonings, but from the excellency of the power that is of God.

May our highly favored country be safe and flourishing under the shadow of the Almighty.

Regard our friends and relations. Those that are absent from us, we commend to the care and direction of an ever-present God. Let those that know Thee not be made wise unto salvation: let not those who are endeared by so many ties, be separated from us forever — How can we endure to see the destruction of our kindred?

Keep us in all places and circumstances. Hide us this night in the secret of thy pavilion, and in the morning encompass us with songs of deliverance.

And now, blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things; and blessed be his glorious name forever; and let the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O Thou that hearest prayer, and inhabitest the praises of Israel! with Moses and Aaron among thy priests, and Samuel among them that call upon thy name, we would this morning exalt the Lord our God, and worship at his footstool, for He is holy.

We thank Thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for all thy inexpressible and inconceivable goodness to the children of men, of which our own history and experience afford such numberless proofs. In thy works of creation we read thy name, the Lord God Almighty; in the dispensations of thy providence we acknowledge Thee as the only wise God; but in the gospel of thy grace we behold Thee as the God of love, and so loving the world as to

give thine only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish but have everlasting life. In Him Thou hast provided for our deliverance from all the effects of sin; for the justification of our persons, the sanctification of our natures, and our perseverance in the path of life, till we receive the end of our faith, the salvation of our souls.

We bless Thee, that exposed as we are to the terrors of thy law which we have so often transgressed, here we have a refuge from the storm; and learn that there is no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus. We bless Thee, that while we are compelled to exclaim, Unclean, unclean! here is an open fountain, the efficacy of which — for it has often been tried — cleanseth from all sin. We bless Thee, that while in us dwelleth no good thing, there is a fulness accessible to all, and incapable of reduction, from which we can receive, and grace for grace.

O Lord, we ask not for worldly riches or honors, but pray that we may be blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ. We envy not those whom the multitude admire; they will soon be cut down as the grass, and wither as the green herb; but look Thou upon us, and be merciful to us, as Thou usest to do unto those that fear thy name. They are happy now, and are inviting and encouraging us to taste and see that the Lord is good. May a vital union be immediately established between Him and us — He the head, and we the members; He the vine, and we the branches; He the shepherd, and we the sheep of his pasture; He the chief corner stone, and we also as lively stones, built up a spiritual house, an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Let us not walk as other Gentiles, in the vanity of our minds, and having our understandings darkened; but may we estimate things according to the testimony of thy word

and feel a persuasion that to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, is a concern, in comparison with which, every other interest is a shadow and a dream.

And, O Lord, save us from presumption. Keep us from suspending our attention to the things of eternity on a more convenient season, or any future period which may never arrive; but reflecting upon the shortness and uncertainties of life, and knowing how frail we are, may we seek the Lord while He may be found, and call upon Him while He is near. May we immediately begin to live the life of the righteous, that we may die the death of the righteous, and that our last end may be like his.

And O save us from the delusion of those who go far, but not far enough in religion; who are convinced but not converted; who have another heart, but not a new one; and who, with all their light and zeal and confidence, have not the spirit of Christ, and therefore are none of his. May we judge of our christianity, not only by our dependence upon Christ, but our love to Christ, and our conformity to Christ. May we know that He dwelleth in us and we in Him, because He hath given us of his spirit.

Let our religion not only be real, but progressive; let us not only hold on our way, but wax stronger and stronger. May we live and may we walk in the Spirit. May we profit by every correction, and be injured by no indulgence.

Accept of our personal and combined acknowledgments, that Thou hast been our salvation in the night watches; and that we are not only the living to praise Thee this morning, but have all things richly to enjoy.

Bless the word which we have been reading. Let not the cares of this life, or the deceitfulness of sin, render it unfruitful. May thy word abide in us and operate. May it attend us in all the businesses of the day, that we may

not sin against Thee; and that whether we eat or drink, or whatever we do, we may do all to the glory of God — To whom be glory in the church, by Christ Jesus, throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O Thou that inhabitest eternity, and with whom a thousand years are as one day. If we were angels, we should veil our faces as we approach Thee, and exclaim, Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of his glory. With what emotions then should *we* enter thy presence, who are but sinful dust and ashes. Give us grace whereby we may serve Thee acceptably, with reverence and godly fear.

May we always combine thy majesty with thy mercy, that we may not trifle before Thee, or incur the reproach of the hypocrite and the formalist, who draw nigh unto Thee with their mouth, and honor Thee with their lips, while their heart is far from Thee. And may we always connect thy goodness with thy greatness, that we may draw near in full assurance of faith. May our consciences at this moment believe that Thou art good, and ready to forgive, and plenteous in mercy to all that call upon Thee.

And do Thou have mercy upon us, O God, according to thy loving kindness, according to the multitude of thy tender mercies. Thou art under no obligation to save us; we lie as guilty at thy sovereign disposal. Thou hast a right to exercise thy mercy in thine own way; and Thou hast sent thine own Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through *Him* might be saved. Thou hast made Him to be sin for us who knew no

sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. We bow, O God, to thine appointment; and gratefully comply with thy command, for this is thy commandment, that we believe on the name of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. We would flee to no other refuge; we would wash in no other fountain; we would build on no other foundation; we would receive from no other fulness.

May the life that we henceforth shall live in the flesh, be by the faith of Him who loved us and gave himself for us. In his name may we rejoice all the day, and in his righteousness may we be exalted.

May we feel a growing conformity to the image of thy Son, and like Him learn obedience by the things we suffer. May the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus make us free from the law of sin and death.

In all our dealings with our fellow creatures may we do justly; in all cases requiring relief and compassion, may we show that we love mercy; and with regard to all the dispensations of thy providence and grace, may we walk humbly with our God.

May we be strong and of good courage to follow our convictions, regardless of the opinions of others, and obey God rather than man. Having obtained the knowledge of thy will from thy word, may we go forth and be steadfast, immoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. And let us not be slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

O how great is the goodness which in thy promises and in thy kingdom Thou hast laid up for them that fear Thee! Number us with them; and enable us to say, Thou hast given me the heritage of them that fear thy name. This assurance, O God, we want, to animate us in duty; to support us under our trials; and to raise us above the fear of death and the dread of eternity. For

we know that we are not to live here always, nor to live here long. Dangers surround us; within us are sown the seeds of disease; our breath is in our nostrils; and there is but a step between us and the grave. How soon is another day gone! and how solemnly does it remind us that all our days are as a shadow! Great God, so teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. Amidst all the uncertainties of time, may we know in ourselves that in heaven we have a better and an enduring substance; and when the earthly house of this tabernacle is dissolving, we may see prepared to receive us a building of God, a house not made with hands eternal in the heavens.

We feel our weakness and our wants. We depend on all the elements for our subsistence, and there is no creature but can be our help or our hurt. We need day by day our supplies of food. We labor for a few hours, and we feel ourselves exhausted, and require weary nature's sweet restorer, balmy sleep. We would not say to Him that made us, Why hast Thou made me thus? but bless Thee for a season of repose and refreshment; for the promise we have that when we lie down Thou wilt make us dwell in safety; and for a state where we shall feel no languor and need no rest; where there shall be no night, and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light, and they shall reign forever and ever. Receive and bless us in the name and for the sake of our adorable Redeemer. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O Thou, who wast, and art, and art to come, the Almighty. Thou art the Creator of all the ends of the

earth. Thou art *our* Maker, and not only the framer of our bodies, but the former of our souls — For there is a spirit in man and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth him understanding. May we remember that Thou madest us upright, but that we have sought out many inventions. Let us not forget what we are, what we deserve, and what we want in our present state.

Nor let us be ignorant of the provisions of thy mercy and grace; nor of Him in whom it hath pleased Thee that all fulness should dwell. In all our outward troubles, and in all our spiritual distress, He is the hope and the consolation of Israel. May we receive the record, that Thou hast given to us eternal life, and that this life is in thy Son. To Him may we always look for relief, and to Him *only;* persuaded that there is none other name given under heaven among men whereby we must be saved. We know from thy word, that He came by water and by blood; as these were not severed in their effusion from the cross, may they never be separated in our creed and our experience. May we be equally convinced of the guilt and the pollution of sin; may we alike feel our need of the Prince and the Savior, and implore of Him repentance as well as forgiveness. May we love holiness and be pure in heart. O that our feet were directed to keep thy statutes! O that we had the same mind in us, which was also in Christ Jesus, and were enabled to tread in his steps, who has gone before us in every path of duty and trial!

As long as we are in the world, keep us from the evil; and may we be always alive and awake to discharge every obligation resulting from our condition in life and the particular events of thy providence.

We would not be at our own disposal, but rejoice to think we are under the care of one who is too wise to

err, and too kind to injure. However ignorant of the future, we will trust and not be afraid; and begin, even in this vale of tears, the song we hope forever to sing — Marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are all thy ways, O Thou King of saints.

Thou hast been pleased again to renew our time and our strength and our comforts; help us to renew our purposes and resolutions to obey and serve Thee. In all our ways may we this day acknowledge Thee, and do Thou direct our paths. Let thy presence go with us, and thy free Spirit uphold us.

May we scandalize none by our temper or conduct, but recommend and endear the religion we profess to all around us. May we decline no opportunity of usefulness that our circumstances may present. May we not withhold good from him to whom it is due, when it is in the power of our hand to do it. May we dread the sentence, Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself and not be heard. May we therefore be merciful, ready to communicate, feeling the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who when rich for our sakes became poor, that we through his poverty might be rich.

Let those who are advanced in years be anxious to bring forth fruit in old age. Let those who are in the midst of life abide with God in their calling; and while they are not slothful in business, may they be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. And O, preserve the young from the snares and temptations of youth. May they be sober-minded. If sinners entice them, let them not consent. With the infidel and the vicious, and the despiser of the sabbath, may they not go, lest they learn of their ways, and get a snare to their souls. Let them say, I am a companion of all them that fear Thee, and choose that good part which shall not be taken away from them.

Bless us as a nation, in all the dependencies and interests of the country; in all its civil and sacred institutions. Let glory dwell in our land, and upon all the glory may there be a defence.

We rejoice that Thou wilt have all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth; and that Jesus Christ gave himself a ransom for all to be testified in due time.

Call in the Jews with the fulness of the Gentiles. Say to the north, give up; and to the south, keep not back; bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth. Bless all those who by their exertions and sacrifices are proving the sincerity of their prayers for the spread of the Redeemer's cause; and let many run to and fro, and knowledge be increased, till all shall know Thee, from the least even to the greatest.

Our Father who art in heaven; hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.

Give ear to our words, O Lord; consider our meditation; and enable us to approach Thee with becoming conceptions of thy nature, relations, and designs.

Thou inhabitest eternity; but our age is as nothing before Thee. Thou dwellest in the heaven of heavens, and this cannot contain Thee; but we dwell in houses of clay, whose foundation is in the dust. Thy power is almighty,

but we are crushed before the moth. Thy understanding is infinite, but we know nothing as we ought to know. Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look upon iniquity; but we are vile — What shall we answer Thee? We cannot answer Thee for one of a thousand of our iniquities. And had we listened to the language of our guilty consciences alone, we could not have entered thy sacred presence.

But Thou hast called us to thy footstool; Thou hast shown us a new and living way into the holiest by the blood of Jesus; and we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of Him. We therefore draw nigh in full assurance of faith, believing that we are as welcome as we are unworthy, and that the blessings we are come to implore are as free as they are great and numberless. O receive us graciously. Be merciful to our unrighteousness. Adopt us into the household of faith; and say to our souls, I am thy salvation.

We have often feared that we have no part nor lot in the matter; and that our heart is not right in the sight of God. We have often questioned whether we know any thing of the new creature; whether we have ever exercised repentance towards God, and faith towards our Lord Jesus Christ. And what if after all our advantages, we should perish; and after all our profession, have a name only that we live while we are dead. O Lord, decide our doubts, and bear witness with our spirits that we are the children of God.

We would not deceive ourselves in a business of everlasting moment; but if we are in a *state* of grace, enable us to know it, for our own comfort and the glory of thy great name.

And, O Lord, we pray that we may *grow* in grace. If we have the reality of religion, how far are our works

from being found perfect before God! Strengthen in us the things that remain that be ready to die; and help us to reach after the higher attainments and privileges of the divine life. May we be followers of God as dear children, and feel it the joy of our lives to be holy as Thou art holy, and merciful as Thou art merciful. May thine eye be more to us than the inspection of all our fellow creatures; and thy approbation be dearer than the approbation of a thousand worlds.

May no grace of the Spirit be wanting or weak in us; may no duty of our calling be neglected, or carelessly performed. May our faith be a strong faith, our hope a lively hope, our charity a fervent charity, our conversation a conversation becoming the gospel of Christ. May we stand complete in all the will of God; and may our light so shine before men, that they may see our good works and glorify our Father who is in heaven.

May we long to serve our generation according to thy will; may wisdom select and regulate our means, and a blameless and lovely consistency of character give weight to our endeavors. And may all our works begin, continue, and end, in Thee. On Thee may we depend for light to know, and disposition to choose, and strength to perform, and submission to suffer, and patience to wait.

And when we have done all, may we acknowledge that we are unprofitable servants, and confess that we deserve condemnation for the defects of our obedience, rather than a reward for its excellency. And looking off from our duties as well as our sins, to find a foundation for our hope, may we rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh. And may our persons and services be accepted in the Beloved — To whom be glory and dominion, forever and ever. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.

We would lift up our hearts, with our hands, unto God in the heavens. Behold before Thee a company of highly indulged but sinful beings. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. None of our fellow creatures know half so much of our depravity as we ourselves know; and our knowledge is ignorance compared with thy wisdom.

Thou readest the heart. Thou viewest actions in their principles and motives. Thou seest more defilement in our duties than we ever saw in any of our sins. In thy sight the heavens are not clean, and Thou chargest thine angels with folly. And if we hate ourselves, and are ready to flee from ourselves because of our abominations, how wonderful is it that Thou dost not abhor us, and swear in thy wrath that we shall not enter into thy rest.

But, be astonished, O heavens, and wonder, O earth! Instead of such a deserved exclusion, Thou hast even devised means that thy banished be not expelled from Thee; means the most astonishing and glorious, and which the angels desire to look into. For Thou hast so loved the world, as to give thine only begotten Son, that whosever believeth on Him should not perish but have everlasting life. In Him mercy and truth meet together, righteousness and peace kiss each other; and thy honor is not only secured, but prominently displayed, even in our escape from thine own threatenings. In Him the enslaved can find redemption, the guilty pardon, the unholy renovation. In Him are everlasting strength for the weak, and unsearchable riches for the needy; in Him we find all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge for the ignorant; in Him all fulness dwells.

We bless Thee for the provision which thine infinite goodness has made for our everlasting welfare; and for the gospel of our salvation which makes it known; and which not only reveals it to our view, but proposes it to our hope, and presses it upon our acceptance.

O Lord, at thy gracious call we hear, we look, we come, we apply, we receive. We not only submit to the scheme of mercy, but we acquiesce in it; we glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ; we joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement. We bless Thee that in this grace we *stand:* Thou hast rendered the blessings as secure as they are glorious; and we are persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Yea, forever blessed be thy name, Thou hast not only provided for our safety, but our prosperity. Thou hast not only promised that the righteous shall hold on their way, but wax stronger and stronger. Thou doest not despise the day of small things; but Thou givest more grace; and hast commanded us to ask and receive, that our joy may be full.

And now, O Lord, what shall we render for all thy benefits towards us? We can never discharge the obligations we are under, but we pray that we may be sensible of them; and though we can make no adequate, may we make suitable returns; and ever ask from the heart, as well as with the lip, Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?

And may we show forth thy praise. May we speak well of thy name. May we be concerned to bring others to love and serve Thee; and to share with us in all the good which Thou hast spoken concerning Israel.

O let our children be thy children, our friends thy friends, our servants thy servants.

May our neighbors, and our enemies too, be visited with thy salvation.

Dwell in our families. Let thy goings be seen in our sanctuaries. Let the people praise Thee, O God; yea let all the people praise Thee. Let the whole earth be filled with thy glory.

Bless the Lord, ye his angels that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word. Bless ye the Lord, all ye his hosts, ye ministers of his that do his pleasure. Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul. Amen and Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.

Again, O Lord of all, we desire to bow in thy presence. May we approach Thee with all the encouragements that can be derieved from thy character as the God of love. We are not left to feel after Thee in the darkness of nature; nor to worship Thee as the unknown God. We cannot find Thee out unto perfection; but we know that Thou art good and ready to forgive, and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon Thee.

For Thou hast given us thy word, which Thou hast magnified above all thy name; and Thou hast favored us with the gospel, which hast turned the dawn of Judaism into perfect day; so that on us who were sitting in darkness and the shadow of death, has risen a great light, the light of life.

But we acknowledge how ungratefully we have receiv-

ed the benefit, and how little we have improved our privileges to the purposes for which they have been given. We have made light of these things though angels desire to look into them; we have neglected the great salvation; we have turned away from Him that speaketh from heaven. And all that Thou hast kindly employed to enforce the messages of thy word we have disregarded; for we have contemned the examples of the good, the admonitions of friendship, the reproaches of conscience, the rebukes of thy providence, and the strivings of thy Holy Spirit: and well do we deserve that the kingdom of God should be taken away from us. O let us not confess our sins without feeling and lamenting them, but with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, with self-abhorrence, self-condemnation, and self-despair.

And under a deep impression of our guilt, may we seek relief alone from Him who is the hope and the consolation of Israel. Viewing Him as dying for the ungodly may we believe in his name. May we know that He bare our sins in his own body on the tree, and that by his stripes we are healed. And may we find in Him, not only righteousness but strength. May He impart to us, not only forgiveness of sins, but repentance unto life. May we never separate in our regards what he has joined together in the scripture; nor suppose that we are justified by his blood, unless we are sanctified by his Spirit.

We believe we can never be happy in sin, and we do not desire it: Lord, deliver us from it, and lead us in the way everlasting. Make us holy like thyself, that we may be made happy in thyself. We are naturally disqualified for all communion with a holy God; work in us to will and to do of thy good pleasure; produce in us those principles and dispositions which will attach us to thyself as our exceeding joy; and enable us to say, Whom have I

in heaven but Thee, and there is none upon earth that I desire beside Thee.

Under all our ignorance, weakness, fears, and depressions, may thy Spirit help our infirmities with supplies of wisdom, strength, and comfort.

May we faithfully study our character, and be always willing to come to the light, that if evil, our deeds may be reproved. May we peculiarly observe ourselves under the operation of those events which are designed to try us; that we may judge of the reality and degree of our grace. May we often review life, and see how we have at any time been ensnared or overcome, that we may in future become more wise and circumspect. And while we watch, may we also pray, lest we enter into temptation. May we never trust in our own hearts, nor depend upon any past experience or present resolution, but be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

Thus far Thou hast helped us. Hitherto our enemies have not triumphed over us. And though we have seen many decline from their profession, we hope if Thou wert to ask, Will ye also go away? we should be able to say, with more conviction and affection than ever, Lord, to whom should we go but unto Thee? Thou hast the words of eternal life. Thou hast been with us in trouble; and many a shadow of death hast Thou turned into the morning. We can now discern thy wisdom and kindness in dispensations which once perplexed and dismayed us; and what we know not now we shall now hereafter.

Never leave us nor forsake us; but support and lead us through all these dark and sorrowful regions; and enable us with confidence to hail the hour when our sun shall no more go down, nor our moon withdraw herself, for the Lord shall be our everlasting light, and the days of our mourning shall be ended.

We implore it through the intercession of Him who gave himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world according to the will of God and our Father; to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.

Let not the Lord be angry, while we, who are but dust and ashes, take upon us to speak unto the living God. Pardon our unworthiness; help our infirmities; and hearken unto the voice of our cry, our King and our God, for unto Thee will we pray.

Thou art good to all; and we have largely shared with thy creatures the bounties of thy providence. But O remember us with the favor Thou bearest unto thy people. We bless Thee for characterizing them; and we bless Thee that Thou hast placed the distinction in no high and discouraging attainments; for Thou takest pleasure in them that *fear* Thee; in them that *hope* in thy mercy. May these dispositions be found in each of us. May we dread thine anger, revere thy perfections, stand in awe of thy majesty, and tremble at thy word. And hide not thy mercy from us; enable us to trust in it and to plead it; and with a broken heart and a contrite spirit may we earnestly cry, God be merciful to me a sinner. In how many ways do we need the exercise of it! But Thou art rich in mercy; Thou art abundant in mercy; Thou delightest in mercy.

We are all so many proofs of this. Because thy compassions fail not we are not consumed. Our forfeited lives have not only been continued but crowned with thy goodness. Thou hast provided for our souls as well as for our bodies; and we hear a thousand voices inviting

us to the feast, and saying, Come, for all things are now ready. Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift: we bless Thee for a Savior, who died for our sins, and rose again for our justification, and is now ascended far above all heavens that He might fill all things.

May we be made the partakers of Christ, and not only of his righteousness but of his Spirit; that we may be not only pardoned but renewed; and not only have a title to heaven but a meetness for it. No longer alienated from the life of God, may our meditations of Thee be sweet, and may we draw near to Thee as to our exceeding joy. May we confide in thy promises, and rely on thy constant protection and care. May we be devoted to thy service, and find it perfect freedom. May we love obedience; may thy law be within our heart.

Let thy cause be dear to our souls. We pray that thy word may have free course and be glorified. Let thy church not only be multiplied in number, but increased in knowledge and sanctity and peace and concord and joy, so that it may be a praise in the whole earth. Let the light of the moon be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun be sevenfold, as the light of seven days. For brass, bring gold; and for iron, silver; and for wood, brass; and for stones, iron.

Thou dost not stand in need of us; but in thy condescension and wisdom Thou art pleased to make use of means, and we desire the honor and happiness of being instruments in thy hand. Lord, what wilt Thou have us to do? We would value every day afforded us as a new period of usefulness. May we be anxious to accomplish all we can to alleviate human woe, and to advance the temporal and spiritual welfare of all around us.

And may we not only be zealous, but persevering. May we never be discouraged, never grow weary in well-

doing. While many go back after following the Savior, may we cleave to Him with purpose of heart, and at last hear Him say, Ye are they who have continued with me in my temptation, and I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father also hath appointed unto me.

We would not forget the afflicted. Hear the sighing of the needy; cause the widow's heart to sing for joy; and in Thee may the fatherless find mercy. Remove indisposition and disease from those who are exercised thereby, or assure them of that world where the inhabitant no more says, I am sick.

Be with us all through the changing scenes of life, and at the hour of dissolution; when heart and flesh fail, be Thou the strength of our heart and our portion forever. If death should be sudden, let it not find us unprepared; if it should be awful in the apprehension, let it be safe in the result; and if we cannot depart in triumph, may we expire in humble hope.

And through eternal ages may it be our privilege to unite with those who are singing, Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God, and to his Father — to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O Lord God of Hosts: Thou hast established thy throne in the heavens, and thy kingdom ruleth over all. It is a source of joy to our minds, and of encouragement to our hopes, that the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth. In thy greatness we see thy all-sufficiency to accomplish all that Thou hast promised, to confer upon us all we

need, and to do for us exceeding abundantly above all we can ask or think.

It is therefore good for us to draw near to Thee; and it is our mercy to know that we can approach Thee with confidence of acceptance and success; founded not on any worthiness or works of our own, but on thine own grace in the appointment of a Mediator, who has put away sin by the sacrifice of himself, and opened a new and living way into the holiest of all by his own blood.

We have no other name to plead, and we need no other. Behold, O God, our shield, and look upon the face of thine Anointed: and for his sake, who groned in the garden and died upon the cross, and now appears in thy presence for us, pardon our iniquity, for it is great; cleanse us from all unrighteousness; deliver us from the power of darkness; and translate us into the kingdom of thy dear Son.

May we no longer be strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints and of the household of God; and because we are sons, send forth the spirit of thy Son into our hearts, crying Abba, Father. May our intercourse with Thee be free and delightful and constant; and not on peculiar occasions only, but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, may we make known our requests unto Thee. May we live in thy presence.

May we walk with God, and walk humbly with God; sensible of our deficiencies and desert; admiring thy condescension and patience; and bowing to all thy dispensations without murmuring or repining.

May we walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time. May we be zealous in the discharge of all those duties, the performance of which depends on a season so fleeting and precarious. May we consider one another, and provoke one another to love and to good

works; not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as we see the day approaching.

Enable us to realize the universality and perfection of thy agency in all our affairs; and since all thy ways are mercy and truth, may we learn in whatsoever state we are therewith to be content; yea, in every thing may we give thanks.

May we not only submit to our trials, but be grateful for them. They are designed for our profit, that we may be partakers of thy holiness. They evince a care of which we are unworthy, and which we have never properly repaid. Lord, what is man, that Thou shouldst magnify him; that Thou shouldst set thy heart upon him; that Thou shouldst visit him every morning, and chasten him every moment. So impatient and wayward and foolish have we been under thy hand, that we have forfeited all claim to the rod, and deserve to be stricken no more. It would be just in Thee to say, They are joined to idols, let them alone. But, O Lord, abandon us not to ourselves; treat us not with neglect. Employ whatever means are necessary to save and sanctify our souls. Try us as Thou pleasest; only while we are chastened of the Lord, let us not be condemned with the wicked.

Humble us under a review of our depravity through another day and another week, which is now hastening to join the days and weeks before the flood. Who can understand his errors? In many things we all offend. Hide thy face from our sins. Heal our backslidings, and receive us graciously.

On the coming day, let thy good Spirit lead us to thy holy hill and to thy tabernacle. May we go unto the altar of God as to our exceeding joy, and taste the bles-

sedness of those that dwell in thy house and are still praising Thee. Teach us to value properly the means of grace, and be concerned to derive from them the benefit they are designed to afford. May we remember our accountableness for them. May we remember that they never leave us as they find us; but always prove the savor of life unto life, or of death unto death.

Let not our attendance add to our sin and condemnation. Let us not sing without devotion, pray without desire, and hear in vain; but be found in the number of those who know the joyful sound, and walk in the fear of the Lord, and in the comforts of the Holy Ghost.

And may those who will not be able to hear the word, hear the rod, and hear it saying, As many as I love I rebuke and chasten. Let meditation and reading and pious conversation, and above all thy special presence, be substitutes for public ordinances. Thus send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; and let them that tarry at home divide the spoil. And have mercy upon all men, as we implore it through the mediation of the ever blessed Redeemer; in whose words we address Thee — Our Father who art in heaven; hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those that trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SIXTH WEEK.

SUNDAY MORNING.

O God, Thou hast made and Thou upholdest all things by the word of thy power. The day is thine, the night also is thine; and by thy wise and kind appointment they are also rendered ours — the night, to wipe off from our minds the cares of the day; to refresh our wearied bodies; and to renew our natural strength — and the day, to summon us to new activities, and to afford us opportunities to glorify our heavenly Benefactor, to serve our generation, and to acquire knowledge, holiness, and everlasting life.

To these duties every morning calls us; but *this* is the day which the Lord hath made more peculiarly for his own honor and our improvement; and therefore we will rejoice and be glad in it. It brings to our remembrance the creation of the world, when God rested from all his works which He had made, and pronounced them to be very good. And there is none like unto Thee, O Lord, among the gods, neither are there any works like unto thy works: they proclaim thy eternal power and godhead, so that we should be without excuse were we not to glorify Thee as God. But Thou hast said, Behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former shall not be remembered nor come into mind. We adore Thee therefore as the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who having finished the work that was given Him to do, entered into his rest: we call to our minds a risen Savior,

who has obtained eternal redemption for us; who dieth no more; who must reign till all his enemies are made his footstool.

May we enter into *his* rest and find it to be glorious. May we cease from all the wretched attempts to deliver and save ourselves; and believe in the name of the only begotten Son of God; that being justified by faith, we may have peace through the blood of the cross; and standing in this grace rejoice in hope of the glory that shall be revealed.

We feel our depravity as well as our guilt; and therefore we pray, not only that Thou wilt forgive us our sins, but cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Create in us a clean heart; renew in us a right spirit; and in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by thy grace, may we have our conversation in the world.

We rejoice that the tabernacle of God is with men; and we bless Thee that Thou hast said, Let them make me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them. We are now to repair from the retirement of the closet and the family altar, to the habitation of thy house, and to mingle with the multitude that keep holy-day. We are unworthy to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple; and are we unfit for services which require a spirituality to which we are naturally averse? Our encouragement is in the all-sufficiency of thy grace; and therefore, blessed be thy name, we go with a lively hope derived from thy own promise, In all places where I record my name, I will come unto Thee and I will bless thee. Save now, O Lord, we beseech Thee; O Lord, we beseech Thee, send now prosperity.

We cast our eyes over a world lying in wickedness; and our compassion and zeal are awakened. How many are perishing with hunger, while there is bread enough

and to spare in our Father's house. How many are suffering under the miseries of this life, and the fears of another, but they have no comforter. The captive exiles hasten that they may be loosed, and that they may not lose their life in the pit; and by their condition, if not by their consciousness of it, are saying, Come over and held us. O send out thy light and thy truth, that all nations whom Thou hast made may come and worship before Thee and glorify thy name. We bless Thee that so many societies have been formed for this noble purpose; and that so many have counted the cost, and have gone forth to preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ. And we bless Thee for the smiles with which Thou hast crowned their efforts. Thou hast risen up out of thy place. Thou hast made bare thine arm in the sight of all the nations. Kings of armies do flee apace, and she that tarries at home divides the spoil — and princes shall come out of Egypt; and Ethiopia shall soon stretch forth her hands unto God; and all the ends of the earth shall see his salvation, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Clothe thy priests with righteousness; let thy saints shout aloud for joy; let thy poor be satisfied with bread. Let the blind and the lame come to Jesus in the temple and be healed. May private trials subserve the designs of public instruction; and thy own presence make the chamber of sickness, and the dwelling place of sorrow, the house of God and the gate of heaven. And prevent us, O Lord, in all our doings by thy most gracious favor; and further us with thy continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in Thee, we may glorify thy holy name; and finally obtain everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord: to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

SUNDAY EVENING.

Praise waiteth for Thee, O God, in Zion, and to render it is the noblest exercise of which our nature is capable. And it is infinitely thy due from all thy creatures; and all thy works display thy attributes and fulfil thy designs. The sea and the dry land, the winter's cold and the summer's heat, the morning light and the evening shade, all are full of Thee. Thy paths drop down fatness. Thou givest us richly all things to enjoy. Thou art the King of kings, and the Lord of lords. Empires rise and fall, and fade and flourish, at thy pleasure. But while all thy works praise Thee, O Lord, thy saints bless Thee. And how many of these are there in thy house above. And how many are there even in this world which lieth in wickedness; and how does it delight us to think that their multitude is so greatly increasing. The Lord add to his people, how many soever they be, a hundred fold!

But O number us with thy saints in glory everlasting. We turn from men of the world who have their portion in this life, the grovellers of mortality, and long to be remembered with the favor Thou barest unto thy people. If we know our own hearts, we would choose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; and esteem the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt. How goodly are thy tents, O Jacob, and thy tabernacles, O Israel! May we die the death of the righteous, and may our last end be like theirs. And, O Lord, we pray to resemble them, not only in their future allotment, but in their present condition and character. With them we would sit at the great Teacher's feet and receive of his words. With them we would run the race that is set be-

fore us, looking unto Jesus. With them we would fight the good fight of faith, and lay hold on eternal life.

May our religion never be an undecided thing in our own minds; may we know that the root of the matter is found in us; and may others know it too. May our principles be evinced in their operation and effects. May we not only believe with the heart, but confess with the tongue, and hold forth the word of life by our lives as well as by our lips. May our understandings be more informed in divine things; our affections more holy and heavenly; our principles more confirmed; our motives more simple and pure; our hearts more right with God. Till the day dawn, and the shadows flee away, may there be an open and unrestrained intercourse between Thee and our souls. Till the full fruition comes, may we enjoy the earnests of our inheritance, and the first fruits of the Spirit. Till we walk by sight, may we walk by faith. Till we finish our course with joy, may we pursue it with diligence, and in every intermediate part display the resources of the Christian, and adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.

Not only by the word, but by the rod, teach us to profit. May we learn obedience by the things we suffer; and however grievous any dispensation may be to flesh and blood, may we be able to say with a sufferer of old, I know that this shall turn to my salvation. We forget not the sons and daughters of affliction. O do Thou remember them in the displays of thy power, and the tenderness of thy pity.

Our goodness extendeth not to Thee, but may the poor and the needy, and the ignorant and the vicious, find that it ever extends to them; and that Thou art pleased to make us not only the subjects of thy goodness but the instruments of thy mercy.

May all our rulers be men after thine own heart, and be constantly directed by the wisdom that is from above. May our land enjoy the smiles of thy Providence, and ever prove the seat of knowledge and freedom, of social order and happiness, of gospel privileges and genuine godliness, of benevolence and usefulness.

Let better days arrive than the world has ever yet witnessed. Let the gospel break in upon those who are lying in the shade of death and hell; and where the illumination has begun, may the light of the moon be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun be sevenfold as the light of seven days. Bind up all the breaches of thy people, and heal the stroke of their wounds. Bless thy church universally; and revive and enlarge the portion of it with which we are connected, and have been again engaged in the exercises of devotion. Behold us as a family; and may the good will of Him that dwelt in the bush, ever reside in this house, to secure and to bless.

Regard us as individuals, at the close of another Sabbath. How many have this day been awakened to the resolution, I will arise and go unto my Father. How many have had their faith and hope in God established. How many have obtained supplies to prepare them for their re-entrance into the duties and trials of life. But we fear it is not so with us. We mourn over our unprofitableness, and tremble at our condition. We have again met together, if not for the better, for the worse. O let us not provoke Thee to withdraw the means of grace from us, or to withhold the influence which can alone render them effectual. We know the Word we hear will judge us in the last day; may we judge ourselves by it now, that we may not be condemned with the wicked. Enter not into judgment with thy servants, for in thy sight shall no flesh living be justified. Our Father who art in hea-

ven; hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.

O Lord, open Thou our mouth, and our lips shall show forth thy praise. We adore and bless Thee, not only as our Creator, and Preserver, and Benefactor, but also as our condescending Teacher. None teaches like Thee. Thou hast opened before us the volume of nature, and there we can read and consider the works of the Lord, which are great and useful, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein: but we have also spread before us the fuller and clearer pages of revelation. In these we see what Thou wilt have us to do; and it is inscribed with such plainness that he may run that readeth. And here we learn not only what Thou requirest of us, but what Thou hast done for us and promised to us. Here we commune with Thee as the God of all grace, and the Father of mercies; the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In the fulness of time Thou wast pleased to send forth thy Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law; and He bore our sins in his own body on the tree; and having made peace by the blood of his cross, He was exalted at thy own right hand to be a prince and a Savior, to give repentance unto Israel and forgiveness of sins.

O Lord, we would cheerfully and thankfully avail ourselves of the provisions of thy love; and while others go

about to establish their own righteousness, we would submit ourselves to the righteousness which is of God. May we renounce every other refuge for our souls, every other foundation for our hope; and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

It delights us to think how many are already made the partakers of this life-giving Savior; but we pray for a participation of Him ourselves. O bless us with a present experience of his salvation, in our deliverance from sin, in our bearing the image of the heavenly, in our enjoying his presence, and in our being upheld by his free Spirit. And O bless us with a conscious experience of his salvation. Let us not live from day to day, uncertain what we are, and whither we are going; but bear witness with our spirits that we are thy children, and enable us to say, I know that my Redeemer liveth. And bless us with a growing experience of this salvation: if already enlightened, may we see greater things than these; if already quickened together with Christ, may we have life more abundantly: renew us day by day in our inward man; and lead us on from strength to strength in the way everlasting, till we shall appear perfect before Thee in Zion.

O for more of that abiding in Jesus, without which we cannot bring forth fruit! O for a deeper sense of our obligations to Him, that we may surrender ourselves to his will, and feel it the joy of our hearts to serve Him! While faith justifies our souls, may obedience justify our faith, and prove it to be of the operation of the Spirit. May our faith work by love, love to Him that died for us and rose again; and love to all our fellow creatures, but especially to them that are of the household of faith. May we love them, notwithstanding differences of opinion and imperfections of character; and love them out of a pure heart fervently.

Be the friend of our friends; the father of our children; the master of our servants. Bless this family. May thine eye and thy heart be here continually. May all the members of the household make thy word the rule of their conduct, submitting themselves one to another in the fear of God, and by love serving one another. Some of our connexions are far off from us; but we rejoice to think that they are near Thee, and that Thou art a very present help in trouble. Keep them as the apple of the eye; hide them under the shadow of thy wing; and may all grace abound towards them. Let the young be sober-minded, and flee youthful lusts. Let the hoary head be a crown of glory, being found in the way of righteousness. We pray for the afflicted; and we pray still more for the prosperous and indulged.

Bless the services of the past Sabbath. Let us not lay aside our religious concern with the day appointed to excite and increase it. May we retain a savor of the things of God through all the unhallowing avocations of the week. We often hear thy word: let us not resemble a man beholding his natural face in a glass; for he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straitway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But may we look into the perfect law of liberty, and continue therein, that being not forgetful hearers, but doers of the work, we may be blessed in our deed. And to God only wise, be glory forever and ever. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.

O God, Thou dost according to thine own will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: none can stay thy hand, or say unto Thee, What doest

Thou? We are the creatures of thy power; Thou art the Father of our spirits; and it is thy inspiration that giveth them understanding. We are entirely the care of thy providence; Thou hast holden our souls in life, and not suffered our feet to be removed; and having obtained help of Thee, we continue to this day.

But, O God, we are sinners in thy sight; and if we say we have not sinned, we make Thee a liar, and thy word is not in us. Far from wishing to deny or excuse our offences, we throw ourselves at thy footstool, confessing that our iniquities are increased over our head, and our trespass is gone up into the very heavens. We have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone the things we ought to have done; and we have done the things we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us.

For these things we mourn; we abhor and condemn ourselves, and acknowledge that Thou art justified when Thou speakest, and clear when Thou judgest. Nothing can rescue our guilty minds from the horrors of despair but an assurance from thyself, that thou art not only good, but ready to forgive, and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon Thee. And blessed be thy name, Thou hast given us a full revelation of thy reconcileableness to thy revolted subjects; and we know that Thou hast sent thy only begotten Son to be the propitiation for sin; and we see opened before us through Him a wide and a welcome way to thyself.

And Thou hast assured us that there is salvation in no other; and that no man cometh unto the Father but by Him. O help us to hear the voice that proclaims, Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world.

Give us the eye of faith to see Him; and the hand of faith to receive Him; and the appetite of faith, the hungering and thirsting of faith, that we may feed upon Him, and know from our own experience as well as the testimony of thy word, that his flesh is meat indeed, and his blood drink indeed. He is the hope of Israel, the consolation of Israel. May we repair to Him as the deliverer from the fall, and find in Him the light, the life, the riches, the honors, of eternity; and rejoice in Him with joy unspeakable and full of glory.

Too long have we joined in the cry of folly, Who will show us any good? Too long have we observed lying vanities, and have forsaken our own mercies. But convinced of our madness, no longer would we spend our money for that which is not bread, and our labor for that which satisfieth not. May we hearken diligently unto Thee our heavenly Inviter, and eat that which is good, and let our soul delight itself in fatness. And so much the more as our time advances, and every moment we seize for reflection tells us that more of our opportunities are fled forever. For Thou hast made our days as a hand's-breadth, and our age is as nothing before Thee, and verily every man at his best estate is altogether vanity. O that we were wise, that we understood this, that we considered our latter end! O teach us, thou Almighty Instructer, teach us to live as dying creatures; to live with our conversation in heaven; to live looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ. May we not only believe that there is a better country, even a heavenly; but may we seek after it, and seek after it in the all-sufficiency of thy grace, and never be satisfied till we know that we have an inheritance among all them that are sanctified; and feel in ourselves those principles and disposi-

tions which evince, not only that the blessedness is promised to us, but begun in us. May thy Spirit help our infirmities, and prepare us for every part of our passage homeward; for the successes and comforts with which we may be indulged; for the disappointments and troubles with which we may be tried; for the various duties we have to discharge; and for all the opportunities of usefulness our stations in life may furnish. Help Thou our unbelief — the hinderance of all our religious excellence and proficiency: increase our faith; and fill us with all joy and peace in believing.

Forgive the sins of another day; and may we now lay us down in peace and sleep; for Thou, Lord, only makest us dwell in safety: and with the returning day, continue thy care over us, and enable us to renew our dedication of ourselves to Thee.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O Thou Creator and Preserver of all mankind, again we come before Thee in the multitude of thy mercies, and would call on our souls and each other to bless and praise thy holy name. Preserve us, in this exercise of devotion, not only from hypocrisy but formality. Enable us to remember what Thou art, into whose presence we have entered, and what we are who have taken upon us to speak unto the living God. How wise, how great, how holy art Thou! But we are dust and ashes; unworthiness and vileness.

In what more becoming attire can we approach Thee than clothed with humility? In how many things have we offended; in all we have come short of thy glory.

When we compare ourselves with thy law, we see that we are carnal, sold under sin; and that in us dwelleth no good thing. When we examine our hearts we find there an aggregate of vanity, frowardness, insensibility, disorderly affections, backwardness to duty, proneness to evil that causes us to loathe ourselves, and exclaim, Behold I am vile. When we look well into our lives; when we survey our relations and offices; our trials and our mercies; our opportunities and our means; and when we consider how often Thou hast called, and we have refused; how much Thou hast excited us, and how we have rebelled and vexed thy Holy Spirit; we cannot but fall upon our knees and cry, Enter not into judgment with us — God be merciful to us sinners — Save, Lord, or we perish.

O lead us to the cross, and enable us to pray, believing in the name of thy dear Son. All hope in, all help from ourselves, we reject forever. What things have been gain to us, these we count but loss for Christ: yea, doubtless, and we count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord. Behold us in Him. Accept of his ransom as our discharge. Let his sufferings be the chastisement of our peace; and by his stripes may we be healed.

We know there is salvation in none other; but Him Thou hast sealed, Him Thou hast anointed; He is mighty to save; able to save to the uttermost them that come unto Thee by Him. May we therefore rejoice in hope; and have faith in those promises and invitations which He has given us in the gospel, and which must include ourselves, because they are addressed to all the ends of the earth, and cry, Whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely. O let these assurances enter our consciences, and live and operate there, till for them the

wilderness and the solitary place shall be made glad, and the desert rejoice and blossom as the rose.

The world passeth away, and the lusts thereof; every thing earthly in which we can trust, is found to be vanity and vexation of spirit. How often has our heart bled, and our very life been smitten down to the ground. So much the more we desire in heaven a better and an enduring substance. Thy love in Christ Jesus our Lord is firm and changeless: nothing can separate us from it; nothing can make us miserable in the enjoyment of it. Say unto our soul, I am thy salvation, that we may have the satisfying persuasion that whatever may befal us, or however we may be tried here, in a little time the days of our mourning shall be ended, and we shall enter the rest that remains for the people of God.

And while the period of our pilgrimage is lengthened out, leave us not nor forsake us, O God of our salvation; but afford us those supplies and influences of thy Holy Spirit, which shall keep us from evil, and enable us to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called, and prove a blessing to all around us.

Make us grateful for the continuance of thy care and kindness; for the security and repose of the past night; and for all the advantages and comforts that meet us at our entering on another day. Be with us in all the duties and occurrences of a new and unknown portion of our time. Include in thy regards, as the God of providence and of grace, all our relations and friends, and for us and for them do exceeding abundantly above all we can ask or think: and to Thee be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.

O God, Thou inhabitest the praises of Israel. The spirits of just men made perfect, and the innumerable company of angels, are perpetually serving Thee in thy house above. We desire to join in their adorations, and rejoice to think that the sacrifices of a broken heart and a contrite spirit, O God, Thou wilt not despise. Thou art a God that hidest thyself, and by no searching can we find Thee out unto perfection; but we know that Thou art almighty; that Thou art about our path and our lying down, and acquainted with all our ways. We know that Thou art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, and therefore we could not stand before Thee; but we also know, for Thou hast proclaimed thy name, that Thou art merciful and gracious. We know that it is possible for Thee to save the very chief of sinners, in harmony with every attribute of thy nature. We know that Thou hast not spared thine own Son, but delivered Him up for us all; and wilt Thou not with Him also freely give us all things? Yea, Thou *hast* given us all things freely with Him.—What can we need as perishing sinners that is not to be found in Him?

May we never be so ignorant of the worthiness of his character and the worthlessness of our own, as to think of appearing before Thee in our own claims, but may we win Christ, and be found in Him, not having our own righteousness which is of the law, but that which is of God by faith. May we know Him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death.

And, O Lord, teach us often to consider what fallen and miserable creatures we were in ourselves; and in

what a fearful condition we should have been found forever, had we been left to ourselves; that the view of thine undeserved goodness, and a sense of the unspeakable benefits we have received from Thee, may so fill our minds and hearts that we may henceforth resolve to yield ourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and our members as instruments of righteousness unto God. And while others lie down and rise up, go out and come in, and God is not in all their thoughts, may we never live a day, or an hour, or a moment, without Thee. May we realize thy presence, thy perfections, thy providence. May we *walk* with God, and may we be *workers* together with God. May we keep the same end in view with himself. May we study and labor to promote it by all the opportunities and means placed within our reach; and whether we eat or drink, or whatever we do, may we do all to the glory of God.

And in all this do Thou enable us, for we are not sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; and to every good work we are naturally disinclined. Open therefore the eyes of our understanding, and shew us not only the truth, but the beauty and glory of divine things. Take from us the heart of stone; put thy Spirit within us; and cause us to walk in thy statutes, and delight in thy law which we have loved. And when Thou hast brought us into the way of holiness and peace, uphold us by thy grace, and establish, strengthen, settle us. Let us not be slothful or barren in our Christian profession; but filled with all the fruits of righteousness, that we may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men, and by our good works which they behold, constrain them to glorify our heavenly Father. Draw out of our hearts the love of the present evil world, and set our affections on things that are above; things which will at once fill, and purify,

and ennoble the mind. May we faint not at our tribulations, remembering that they are for our profit and glory, and that He who sends them has promised to be with us in trouble. When burdened, may we cast our burden upon the Lord; and when careful, cast all our care upon Him who careth for us.

May we be diligent and faithful in our several callings, and by no injustice or wicked policy may we provoke Him whose blessing alone maketh rich, and addeth no sorrow. May we never feast ourselves without fear, nor refuse in the midst of abundance to stretch forth our hand to the sons and daughters of want. And as the elect of God, holy and beloved, may we put on bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering, forbearing one another, and forgiving one another: and above all these things may we put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

Now unto Him that is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy: to the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, forever and ever. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

We bow our knee before the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named. Our exigencies are great, but Thou art able to supply them all from thy riches in glory. Our sins are more in number than the hairs of our head, but Thou art merciful and gracious. None, however unworthy and guilty, ever sought Thee in vain; and from the experience of a multitude which no man can number,

Thou hast obtained the character of a God hearing prayer; and unto Thee shall all flesh come.

Behold, O God, a company of suppliants at thy footstool, hopeless in ourselves, but encouraged by thy promises, and taking hold of thy strength, that we may make peace with Thee. Look upon the face of thine Anointed. Behold his obedience unto death, even the death of the cross. Hear the blood of sprinkling that speaketh better things than that of Abel. By his poverty may we be made rich; and by his stripes may we be healed. And may we thereby be healed, not only as to the wounds of a bleeding conscience, but as to the moral maladies of our nature, and be saved not only by a deliverance from the wrath to come, but by the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Ghost. May the darkness of death give place to the light of life in our understandings. May the rebelliousness of our wills be exchanged for submission to thy commands and acquiescence in thy dispensations, without murmurings or disputings. Thou hast claims to us, arising not only from creation, but redemption: may we glorify Thee in our bodies and in our spirits which are doubly thine. Let our Father, who seeth in secret, meet us in the closet as well as in the temple, and find us often examining our principles and our motives as well as our actions. Let us not confine our devoutness to the morning and evening hour of prayer; but be in the fear of the Lord all the day long.

Though our religion is at present very imperfect, may it shew itself to be vital by its activities, and its tendencies to grow. Let the weak say, I am strong, strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might; strong for our way, for our work, and our warfare.

May we never forget the experience we have had of our innate and remaining depravity in the various passages of

our life and our religion, that we may be kept humble, and vigilant, and prayerful; that we may never trust in our own hearts, and never lean to our own understandings. And may we never forget the experience we have had of thy patience, and wisdom, and power, and faithfulness, and care, that we may be grateful, and encourage ourselves in the Lord our God. We have never served Thee for nought; we have never sought Thee in vain; we have never confided in Thee and been confounded. Thou hast often made us ashamed of our fears; Thou hast often surpassed our hopes. At many an evening tide it has been light; and many a shadow of death Thou hast turned into the morning. Thou hast already enabled us to see how our welfare has resulted from events which once discouraged us: and where darkness yet hangs on any of thy dispensations, we hear Thee saying, What I do thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter. O for faith to believe; and patience to suffer, to wait, and to submit! We pray not that Thou shouldst take us out of the world, but keep us from the evil. We ask not for the accomplishment of all our wishes, for we often know not what we ask; but we pray that whatever may be denied us, we may be blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ. May the joy of the Lord be our strength. And let all those that put their trust in Thee rejoice; let them ever shout for joy, because Thou defendest them; let them also that love thy name be joyful in Thee.

We love the communion of saints, and would be mindful of them in our prayers. Bless those with whom we are more immediately connected in the fellowship of the gospel. And bless thy church universal: may peace be within her walls, and prosperity within her palaces. Abba, Father, all things are possible to Thee. Take to thy-

self thy great power and reign; and let the exclamation be heard from earth and from heaven, Hallelujah, for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever. Even so: Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O God, thy greatness is unsearchable, and thy ways are past finding out. Before Thee we are nothing, less than nothing and vanity, worse than nothing and iniquity. With shame and sorrow we acknowledge our degraded and perishing condition. For sin has forfeited thy favor, stripped us of thy image, banished us from thy presence, and exposed us to the curse of thy holy law. And from this condition we have no power to deliver ourselves; and we lie down in despair, unless a resource be found in thyself, from whom we have so deeply revolted, and who for our sins are so justly displeased.

But Thou, even Thou, without our desert, without our desire, and ages before our existence, wast pleased to accomplish a plan extending from everlasting to everlasting, honorable to all thy perfections, and which the angels desire to look into. And the word which announces all the glory of this goodness is nigh us; and invites and beseeches us to partake of all the fulness of God. O let us not turn away from Him that speaketh from heaven, and reject the council of God against ourselves; but as convinced and self-despairing sinners, may we receive it as a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation; and find it to be the power of God to salvation. And as the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ is the centre of all the parts, and the source of all the blessings of the gospel, may we repair

to it, and there be relieved from a burden too heavy for us to bear; and there be crucified to the world; and there become dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God. There may we sink into the deepest humiliation; there may we find motives to patience, self-denial, active benevolence; there may hope lift up its head; and faith lay hold on eternal life; and love bind us to live not unto ourselves, but to Him that died for us and rose again.

Enable us to rejoice in Him whom Thou hast sent, not only as the Redeemer, but the Sanctifier. We want holiness; and not only the reality of the principle and the practice, but the increase. May we be more thankful for thy mercies, more humble under thy corrections, more zealous in thy service. Make us more constant in duty, more watchful against temptation, more contented in our stations, more exemplary in our conduct, more useful in our day and generation. May we do justly, and love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.

Teach us to be ready for affliction. In health may we think of sickness; and in our brightest hours may we remember the days of darkness, for they may be many. We know that Thou wilt bring us to death, and to the house appointed for all living: may we also know that when this earthly house of our tabernacle shall be dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. We must all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. May we labor that whether present or absent we may be accepted of Him.

O Thou whose mercies are over all thy works, have pity upon all men. Smile upon our country, and fill our churches with thy glory. Bless all the magistrates of the land, and all the ministers of thy word. Be a father to the fatherless; plead the cause of the widow; comfort the feeble-minded; support the weak; be the guide of the

young and the solace of the old. In a peculiar manner regard all those who are near and dear to us; be their sun and their shield; give them grace and glory, and withhold no good thing from them.

In how many dangers hast Thou preserved us, and by how many comforts hast Thou indulged us through another day. Let the night also praise Thee, and the morning rejoice; as we implore it through the intercession of Him, in whose words we address Thee, as Our Father who art in heaven; hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O Thou great and only potentate; the sovereign Ruler of heaven and earth; whose mercies are over all thy works; we desire to come before thy presence with thanksgivings. We bless Thee for all thy amazing goodness to the children of men, and of which we have so largely shared ever since we have had a being. Thou hast made summer and winter, and each of these revolutions subserves our welfare. The day is thine, the night also is thine, and both these seasons are full of thy care and kindness. We see thy bounty in the relations that train us up, in the laws that defend us, in the houses that shelter us, in the fuel that warms us, in the food and raiment that comfort us; in the continuance of our health, our members, our senses, and our understandings — Thou givest us all things richly to enjoy.

But all these benefits Thou hast eclipsed, as the stars disappear before the rising of the sun. O lead us to adore the wisdom that planned, and the grace that purposed, the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ. O blessed forever be that abundant mercy that laid help on one that is mighty, and one that is as willing as He is able to save unto the uttermost them that come unto God by Him. Make us deeply sensible of our need of the influences and blessings He has to impart. May we value, as weary and heavy laden, the rest He has promised, and sigh in our bondage for the liberty wherewith He makes us free indeed. Give us a full interest in that blood which cleanses from all sin; the complete imputation of that righteousness which can justify the guilty, and give them a title to life everlasting; and the entire possession of that Spirit which can renovate our nature, and make us meet for the inheritance of the saints in light.

May we not only discern the all-sufficiency of the Savior, but by appropriation render it our own, and be able to exclaim with Thomas, My Lord and my God!

And may we not only be replenished ourselves, but concerned also that our fellow-creatures may be partakers of the benefit. Thou hast commanded us to pray for others, and we rejoice in the command as an evidence of thy benevolence, and as the resource of our own. We are perpetually meeting with wants which we cannot relieve, and distresses which we cannot remove; but we can implore and gain the attention of Omnipotence; prayer has power with Thee and prevails; and success depends not on our rank or our talents. Thou despisest not the prayer of the destitute, but wilt hear their prayer.

Sanctify the afflictions of the afflicted; turn the curse into a blessing; and let the effects of sin be the fruits to take away sin. Preserve the prosperous from the folly

that will destroy them; may they possess as if they possessed not, and rejoice as if they rejoiced not; and ever use this world as not abusing it. Reward those who have done us good or wished us good; and forgive those who have injured or wished to injure us. May all our dear connexions be bound up in the bundle of life with the Lord our God.

Compass our country with thy favor as with a shield. May thy banner over us be love. May our government be established in righteousness. Let our magistrates never be ashamed to ask counsel of Thee: may they be the ministers of God for good; a terror to evil-doers, and a praise to them that do well.

And may He who said, I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me, reign from sea to sea, and from the river to the ends of the earth. May all kings fall down before Him, and all nations serve Him. And blessed be his glorious name forever, and let the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O God of all grace; the heavens declare thy glory, and the firmament sheweth thy handy work. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. We adore Thee for making thy ways known unto Moses; thine acts unto the children of Israel. At sundry times and in divers manners, Thou spakest in times past unto the fathers by the prophets; but Thou hast in these last days spoken unto us by thy Son. At his feet may we sit, and receive of his words; and be led into all truth.

May we admit the testimony that we are fallen, guilty, depraved, perishing creatures; and be driven to that self-despair which will urge us to seek after the hope of the gospel, and endear to us that Savior in whom is all our help found. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; but Thou hast laid on Him the iniquity of us all. Surely He hath borne our grief and carried our sorrow; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and with his stripes we are healed. It is well for us that He died for the ungodly; that He makes intercession for the transgressors; and that from the pitiableness of his great goodness He is now saying, Him that cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out. We have nothing to recommend us, and we want nothing. We have no money, and we are called to buy without money and without price.

While we love the freeness of his salvation, we also rejoice in the holiness of it. Our sins are our worst enemies, and never does He appear more worthy the name of Jesus, than when engaged to save us from them. May He accomplish in us the new creation; and uphold us with his free Spirit; for where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. Put thy fear into our hearts, that we may never depart from Thee. We know that only as we walk in the fear of the Lord can we walk in the comforts of the Holy Ghost. We have made the trial, and can say from experience, that no joy can be compared with that which arises from serving and fearing the Lord.

May we therefore feel more dedicated to Him in all the obedience of faith; and while we live, may we increasingly live unto the Lord, and when we die, die unto the Lord, that living and dying we may be only and entirely the Lord's.

We bless Thee for the exceeding great and precious

promises upon which Thou hast caused us to hope. They provide for every exigency we feel, and every evil we fear. May we be more familiarly acquainted with them; may we take them as our heritage forever, and make them our song in the house of our pilgrimage. May they yield us such satisfaction that our hearts may be kept from straying after forbidden pleasures; that the world may lose its power of allurement; that we may learn in whatsoever state we are, therewith to be content.

May thy providential will bound all our wishes; for we know not what is good for us in this vain life, which we spend as a shadow: but Thou knowest. To thine unerring care, therefore, we resign all our concerns, remembering that Thou art able to make all things work together for our good; and hast proved thy regard for our welfare in not sparing thine own Son, but delivering Him up for us all.

We are in a vale of tears, in a world of tribulation, and among creatures that prove reeds and broken cisterns. In the multitude of our thoughts within us, may thy comforts delight our souls. And since we are daily told that this is not our rest, may we arise and depart; may we seek a better country, and lay hold on eternal life. Make us sensible of our weakness, that we may be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. Secure us from all those temptations which in every state of life arise from a wicked world and a wicked heart. May we, under the belief of thy all-seeing eye and thy awful tribunal, discharge faithfully the duties arising from our various relations in life.

As a family may we keep sin from our tabernacle, and dwell together in unity and love. May we present Thee our evening sacrifice of thanksgiving for the preservations, the supplies, and the indulgences of the day; and

into thy hands we commit our spirits and our bodies for the night. Cover us with thy feathers, and under thy wing may we trust; and in every future period may thy truth be our shield and buckler. And to the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, be honor and power everlasting. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O Lord God Almighty; Thou dwellest in light inaccessible to men and angels. Thou hidest thyself behind the elements of thy own creation. None can find Thee out unto perfection. Possess our minds with the grandeur of thy nature and perfections. There is no searching of thy understanding: it is infinite. There is no staying of thy arm: it is almighty. Thy agency extends through all space; and all worlds hang on thy care. One day with Thee is as a thousand years, and a thousand years are as one day. The most elevated beings Thou hast made are continually crying, Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts, the whole earth is full of thy glory. Thy wisdom is a holy wisdom; thy power is holy; thy mercy is holy. Thou art holy in all thy ways, and righteous in all thy works.

How then, O God, can we stand before Thee! How numberless and how aggravated have been our offences! How often have we said, if not by our words, yet by our disposition and conduct, Depart from us, we desire not the knowledge of thy ways.

O how have we loved darkness rather than light; how have we observed lying vanities, and forsaken our own mercies; how have we trampled under foot the Son of God. Thy providence has restrained us; but we have

done evil as we could. We have had our religious convictions and excitements; but we flattered Thee with our lips, and lied unto Thee with our tongue; for our heart was not right with God, neither were we steadfast in his covenant.

And why are we not beyond the reach of hope? Why are we not exclaiming, The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved? It is because thy compassions fail not, that we are not consumed. O let us not add to all our iniquities impenitence; but let thy goodness lead us to repentance. Let us not seal up our doom forever by despair; but grievously as we have offended, may we come to thy footstool, renouncing, condemning, loathing ourselves for our abominations, but hoping in that grace which flows to the chief of sinners through the obedience and sufferings of thy dear Son. May we receive the atonement; and know the blessedness of the man whose transgression is forgiven, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

If Thou hast begun a good work in us, perfect that which concerneth us. Strengthen us in the name of the Lord, that we may run and not be weary, and walk and not faint.

O Thou hope of Israel, the Savior thereof in the time of trouble, why shouldst Thou be as a stranger in the land, and as a wayfaring man that turneth aside to tarry for a night? What will become of us if we are left to ourselves? But Thou hast said, I will never leave thee nor forsake thee. May we therefore say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear.

May we live out of the world, as to its spirit and maxims and manners, but never may we refuse to enter it as the sphere of action and of usefulness. At every call of duty may we be alive and awake. May we leave Thee

to determine the nature of our service, without murmuring and disputing; as we have opportunity may we do good unto all men; and especially unto those that are of the household of faith.

We are now in the wilderness, but, blessed be thy name, all is not briars and barrenness. We are not without the bread from heaven, and the streams of the rock, and the pillar, and the tabernacle, and the ark. We are sometimes discouraged because of the way; but the way, though winding and trying, is safe and short. Jordan often dismays us, but the feet of our High Priest, standing himself in the waters, will open for us a passage; and beyond it there is a better, even a heavenly country. Many have reached it, and some we once called and still call our own; and we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, we shall be saved even as they. While we live may our lives be exemplary; and when we die, may our end be peace. May we give diligence to make our calling and election sure; that doing these things we may never fall; and so an entrance may be ministered unto us abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior — to whom be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O Thou Most High, we bow before Thee. It becomes us to lie very low in thy presence. We are nothing compared with Thee as creatures. Yet we would not despise ourselves, as we are the work of thy hands; or because we do not occupy the rank and possess the powers of angels. We acquiesce in thy sovereign pleasure which has placed us where we are, and made us what we are:

yea, we thank Thee that in this embryo-stage of our endless being, we are rendered capable of so much knowledge and improvement; that we can bear thy own image, and not by subserviency only, but by design, can be workers together with God, and advance his cause and his glory.

But so much the more deplorable is the confession we are constrained to make; the crown is fallen from our head; woe unto us, for we have sinned. We mourn over the depravity of our nature; that we are alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in us; that the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked; that the carnal mind is enmity against God, for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

O how glorious is the grace that was mindful of us in this desperateness, and devised means for our rescue. Thou wouldst not at an infinite expense have provided salvation for us, had we not been entirely lost; and Thou wouldst not have laid help on one that is mighty, could we have been our own deliverers. We bless Thee for the designs of thy goodness, and for the accomplishment of them by the Son of thy love; that He came between and laid his hands upon us both; that He made peace by the blood of his cross; that He opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers; that He received gifts for the rebellious also, that the Lord God might dwell among them; that in Him surely we have righteousness and strength.

May we be found in Him, that we may be freed from all condemnation, and possessing a new source of influence, may we walk not after the flesh but after the spirit. And may we mind the things of the Spirit; may we savor the things that be of God; may we call the Sabbath a delight; may we love the habitation of thy house; may we find thy word and eat it, and may it be to us the joy and the rejoicing of our heart.

Spare around us, if it please Thee, our outward comforts, though we are unworthy of the least of them; but keep us from abusing them, from idolizing them, from being satisfied with them, without the hope of having in heaven a better and an enduring substance. May we never act, never feel, as those who make flesh their arm, and the world their portion, and earth their rest; but may we declare plainly that we are heirs of immortality, and that our utmost anxiety is to lay hold on eternal life.

Thou dost not afflict willingly, nor grieve the children of men; but Thou art concerned for our profit; and thy regard for our welfare often compels Thee to adopt a painful discipline. May we be concerned to gather from it the peaceable fruits of righteousness. Let tribulation work patience, and patience experience, and experience hope. How many hast Thou allured and brought into the wilderness, and given them their vineyards from thence, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope. May we be also thy witnesses, and be able to testify that it is good for us that we have been afflicted.

These returning periods remind us of the progress of our time. We lament over opportunities now, alas, gone, and gone forever, in which we could have glorified our Savior, and been blessings to those around us. How few remain; and these how short and uncertain! Enthrone and keep divinely alive in each of our souls the conviction, I must work the work of Him that sent me, while it is day; the night cometh wherein no man can work.

Regard this household. May all the members of it be the charge of thy providence, and the subjects of thy grace; and in their several stations may each daily ask, Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do? Bless all the families of Israel. Favor all the churches of the faithful, however denominated among men. Rule and govern thy church

universally in the right way. And let all the dispensers of thy truth, both by their preaching and living, set it forth and shew it accordingly. And from the rising of the sun to the going down of the same, may thy name be great among the Gentiles, and in every place incense be offered unto Thee, and a pure offering. Our Father who art in heaven; hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.

O Thou, whose name alone is Jehovah. From everlasting to everlasting Thou art God. One generation passeth away and another cometh; and Thou hast appointed us bounds which we cannot pass; and every day upon which we enter, brings us nearer the end of our course. But Thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end. Verily Thou art a God that hidest thyself, yet Thou art the God of Israel, the Savior; and by means of thy word we know that Thou art not far from any one of us, and that Thou art not only able to relieve all our wants, but willing to hear our supplications; yea, Thou hast commanded us to ask and receive, that our joy may be full.

O these wretched hearts of ours, these evil hearts of unbelief, in departing from the living God, instead of trusting in Him. How full of suspicions are we; how backward to approach Thee in full assurance of faith, though we know Thou art pacified towards us, and waiting to be

gracious, and exalted to have mercy upon us. Work in us, O God, to will and to do: fulfil in us all the good pleasure of thy goodness, and the work of faith with power. May we believe the record, that Thou hast given to us eternal life; and knowing that this life is in thy Son, and that he who hath the Son hath life, may we receive Him as He is presented to us in the gospel; and having received Him, continue to walk in Him.

May we feel far more powerfully than we ever have felt the importance of religion; may we regard it as the one thing needful. If ever we are negligent, or if ever we trifle, may it be in the concerns of time and sense; not in those which pertain to the soul and eternity, and for which the Lord of all bled and died.

And may we feel more of the power of godliness, in subduing the corruptions of our nature; in loosening us from the present evil world; in supporting us under the trials of life; in enabling us to abide with God in our callings; and in exercising ourselves always to have a conscience void of offence towards God and towards man.

In all our affairs may we learn to distinguish between duty and anxiety. May we diligently and dependently use the means which Thou hast appointed; but cast all care upon Him who careth for us. May our character, rather than our circumstances, chiefly engage our attention; remembering that if we seek the Lord, we shall not want any good thing; and if we love Him, all things will work together for our good.

Give us compassionate hearts that we may feel the distresses of others, and never refuse our aid when it is in the power of our hand to give. Is any afflicted? Teach him to pray; and let him find Thee a very present help in trouble. Awaken the careless, and especially alarm those that are at ease in Zion. Preserve the awakened

from those betrayers and murderers of souls who never cry, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved. Meet those who are asking the way to Zion with their faces thitherward, with the assurance, I will lead thee, I will guide thee, I will direct thee with mine eye. Say to them that are of a faithful heart, Be strong; restore them that have gone astray, and help them much who have believed through grace.

We forget not the millions of our fellow creatures who are sitting in darkness and in the regions of the shadow of death; and to every empire, every province, every village, say, Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. Raise up and send forth many more laborers; for the harvest truly is great. May those who remain at home aid in this blessed cause by their property and their prayers; and in their own spheres of action, may they be careful to hold forth the word of life, not only by a verbal testimony, but by an actual exemplification.

To Thee, the God of our mercy, we afresh dedicate this morning the lives which Thou hast spared, the strength which Thou hast renewed, and the comforts which Thou hast continued. May we be in the fear of the Lord all the day long; and whether we eat or drink, or whatever we do, may we do all to thy glory; through our adorable Redeemer. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O Thou, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, and whose service is perfect freedom, cleanse the thoughts of our heart by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, and give us grace whereby we may serve Thee acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

Thou art our hiding place; Thou art our resting place; Thou art our dwelling place; the home of the soul, and our everlasting portion. By sin we revolted from Thee, and Thou couldst have justly left us to the natural and penal consequences of the fall; but in thy love and pity Thou wast pleased to devise means that thy banished should be restored to Thee; Thou hast sent thy only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him; and He has once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us unto God.

Having therefore boldness and access with confidence by the faith of Him, we draw near, and cry, God be merciful to us sinners. Thou hast been merciful to us in the bounties of thy Providence, and thy mercies have been new every morning; but O, impress us with the conviction that the body is nothing to the soul, and that time is nothing to eternity. When a few more of these weekly periods have rolled away, our flesh will be laid beneath the cold stone, or the green turf, and our spirits will be returned to God who gave them; and the solemn decision will have passed, He that is holy let him be holy still, and he that is filthy let him be filthy still. O bless us with the heritage of Jacob; remember us with the favor Thou bearest to thy people. Absolve us from all condemnation; and let the spirit of life in Christ Jesus make us free from the law of sin and death. Deliver us from the power of darkness, and translate us into the kingdom of thy dear Son; that kingdom which is not meat and drink, but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

In how many ways have we borne the image of the earthy; O let us evermore bear the image of the heavenly. May the humility and benevolence, the devotion and zeal, the patience and submission, which adorned his lovely character, be in a measure our attainment now; and

pressing after a fuller conformity to Him, may we rejoice in the assurance that we shall be one day perfectly like Him, and see Him as He is.

Enable us to hold communion with Thee in all the dispensations of thy providence, and display the Christian in all the varying events of life. Man is born to trouble; regard us in all our sorrows. Though our afflictions are the effects of sin, they are taken up, and employed by thy wisdom and goodness for our profit: and though no chastening seemeth for the present to be joyous, but grievous, nevertheless, afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness. Be it unto us, O Lord, according to thy word. May we learn obedience by the things we suffer; and may every adversity turn to our salvation through prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

Though ignorant of the future, and not knowing what a day may bring forth, may we be fearful of nothing, and careful for nothing. May we commit our way and our works unto Him who hast been with us in six troubles, and has promised that He will never leave us nor forsake: whose grace will be sufficient for us while we live, and whose hand shall wipe away all tears from our eyes when we die.

May we feel more of the tender and benevolent agency of the gospel. May it make us long for the salvation of souls; and rejoice in the belief that Jesus gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

Already the lines have fallen to us in pleasant places. Blessed are our eyes for they see, and our ears for they hear. Yet the blessing may be converted into a curse; and Thou hast commanded us to fear, lest a promise being left us of entering into thy rest, any of us should seem to come short of it.

We would now dismiss the cares of the world with the

week. May we rise in the morning with refreshed bodies and renewed strength; and be in the Spirit on thine own day. And do Thou send out thy light and thy truth, that they may lead us and guide us to thy holy hill and to thy tabernacles. Our Father who art in heaven; hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

FORMS OF PRAYER,

FOR

SELECT OCCASIONS.

CHRISTMAS DAY—MORNING.

O God, Thou art worthy of universal and everlasting adoration. Thy nature is incomprehensible; thy perfections are infinite; and thy ways are past finding out. Thou art the Creator and upholder of all things. All thy works praise Thee, O Lord, and thy saints bless Thee. All our lives have been full of thy undeserved goodness.

But we are called this morning to behold the exceeding riches of thy grace, in thy kindness towards us by Christ Jesus. Herein is love; not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

May we contemplate this matchless event with all those views and affections which its importance demands. May those who observe the day observe it unto the Lord. May our festivity be becoming the occasion, harmless and holy. Let us not disgrace the season by reviving those works of the devil which the Son of God was manifested to destroy; nor rest satisfied with the mere remembrance of his advent, as founded in truth and attended with wonders, but inquire for what end He was born, and for what cause He came into the world. And since we are informed that He came to seek and to save that which was

lost; and suffered the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God; may we deem the report not only a faithful saying, but worthy of all acceptation; and may it be in us a well of water springing up into everlasting life. May none of us disregard Him, from ignorance, worldly mindedness, presumption, self-righteousness, or despondency. As our Prophet, may we repair to his feet for instruction. May we look to his sacrifice, and find relief for our burdened consciences. May we acknowledge his authority and obey his commands. In all our approaches to Thee, may we make mention of his righteousness only, and in his strength, go forth into all the duties and trials of life.

May we never feel miserable, even in a vale of tears, while we think of the consolation of Israel; but rejoice in Him with joy unspeakable and full of glory.

Reflecting upon his grace in becoming poor, that we through his poverty might be rich, may all selfishness and uncharitableness be extirpated from our hearts; may we love one another as He has loved us; and may we delight to go about doing good.

May no coldness, no indifference, ever approach our spirits, whenever we are engaged in serving a Master who has all the claims of a benefactor; yea, who died for us and rose again.

To Him may we consecrate all our faculties and possessions; and on our time and our substance, our souls and our bodies, may there be inscribed, Holiness unto the Lord. May we grieve to hear his name blasphemed, and weep to see his laws transgressed.

May his cause lie near our hearts; and may we long for the time when He shall be known and adored from the rising of the sun to the going down of the same; when to Him shall every knee bow, and every tongue

confess; and the glad tidings of great joy shall be to all people, Unto *you* is born a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

Through his mediation we address Thee; and in his words we conclude our imperfect supplications. Our Father who art in heaven; hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

CHRISTMAS DAY—EVENING.

Though Thou art exalted above all blessing and praise, yet, O God, we love to explore thy ways, to admire thy works, and to adore thy perfections. Thy understanding is infinite, thy power is almighty, thy mercy endureth forever. Thy goodness transcends all our conceptions, as far as the heavens are higher than the earth.

We call on our souls and each other, this evening, to praise and magnify thy holy name. We bless Thee for our creation, and the degree we hold in the rank of being. We bless Thee for our preservation, and for all the supplies which have rendered life supportable; and all the indulgences which have rendered it comfortable. But above all, we thank Thee for thine unspeakable gift; for Thou hast surpassed all thy works and crowned all thy benefits by remembering us in our low estate, and laying help on one that is mighty.

And we have again heard the intelligence, that God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that

whosoever believeth on Him should not perish but have everlasting life. Convince us of our need of this dispensation of mercy and grace; and may we acquiesce in it, not with coldness of assent, but with gladness of heart. May we exclaim with the angels, Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, good will towards men: and with the multitude of disciples, shout, Hosanna, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Though the world knew Him not, and his own received Him not, and He is still despised and rejected of men; may we receive Him as all our salvation and all our desire.

May we rejoice to view Him in a nature which leads Him to call us brethren; in which, as our example, He can go before us in the duties of obedience and submission; in which He can sympathize with us in all our wo; and in which He has suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us unto God.

May we look to Him for all we want, and live a life of faith upon his fulness. In Him may we know that we have redemption through his blood; that we have righteousness and strength; that we have all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

May we connect with his work *for* us in the flesh, his work *in* us by the Spirit. While we are reconciled by his death, may we be saved by his life; and remember that his name is Jesus, because He saves his people from their sins.

And as He came not only that we might have life, but have it more abundantly, may our expectations be large and our desires importunate. May He dwell in our hearts by faith; that we being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the height and depth, and breadth and length, and know the love of

Christ, which passeth knowledge, and be filled with all the fulness of God.

Once in the end of the world hath He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself; and unto them that look for Him will He appear a second time without sin unto salvation. O prepare us for that solemn day! May we believe in Him as a Savior before we meet Him as a Judge; that when the tribes of the earth shall wail because of Him, we may lift up our heads with joy, knowing that our redemption draweth nigh; and say with the church, Lo! this is our God, we have waited for Him, He will save us; this is the Lord, we have waited for Him; we will rejoice and be glad in his salvation.

Make thy ministers wise and zealous and successful in the dispensation of thy word; and let signs and wonders be done in the name of thy holy child Jesus.

We are a sinful people, but Thou hast not dealt with us after our desert; and Thou hast not left us without witness. Thou hast, in the midst of us, a people for thy name; and we pray that our beloved country may be a growing part of the empire of the Prince of Peace.

May the root of Jesse stand for an ensign to the people; to it may the Gentiles seek; and let his rest be glorious. May He come down like rain upon the mown grass, as showers that water the earth. In his days may the righteous flourish; and abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth. Let all nations be blessed in Him; all generations call Him blessed.

And blessed by his glorious name forever; and let the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen.

LAST EVENING OF THE OLD YEAR.

O God, Thou hast been our refuge and dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God. A thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night. But as for man, his days are as grass; as a flower of the field so he flourisheth; for the wind passeth over it and it is gone, and the place thereof knoweth it no more.

We appear before Thee, to close in thy presence another of the revolutions of our fleeting existence, earnestly praying that the season may not pass away without suitable and serious reflections. O let us not imagine, in spite of scripture and observation, and reason and feeling, that we have many of these periods left to notice; but say with Job, When a few years are come, I shall go the way whence I shall not return. It may be only a few months, or weeks, or days, or hours, for we know not at what *hour* the Son of man cometh. But we know that our life is a vapour, that appeareth for a little time and then vanisheth away; we know the frailty of our frame, and the numberless diseases and disasters to which we are exposed. So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

What numbers of our fellow creatures, and many of them much more likely to have continued than their survivors, have during the past year been carried down to their long home; but we have been preserved, and are the living to praise Thee this day. Blessed be the God of salvation, to whom belong the issues from death, that we are yet in the regions of hope, that we have yet an

accepted time, and a day of salvation; and that our opportunities of doing good as well as of gaining good are still prolonged. Yet are they all diminished by another irreparable loss; and the reduced remainder, with every trembling uncertainty attached to it, calls upon us to say with growing seriousness and zeal, I must work the works of Him that sent me while it is day — the night cometh wherein no man can work.

Thou hast commanded us to remember all the way which Thou hast led us in the wilderness. The scene of our journeying has indeed been a wilderness; but the hand that has conducted us is divine, and a thousand privileges, not derivable *from* our condition, have been experienced *in* it.

Thou hast corrected us, but it is of the Lord's mercies we are not consumed.

We have had our afflictions, but how few have they been in number, how short in continuance, how alleviated in degree, how merciful in design, how instructive and useful in their results.

With regard to our severest exercises, we are compelled to acknowledge, Thou hast not dealt with us after our sins, neither hast Thou rewarded us according to our iniquities. It is good for me that I have been afflicted.

But O, what a series of bounties and blessings present themselves to our minds, when we look back upon the year through which we have passed; and to what, but to thine unmerited goodness in the Son of thy love, are we indebted for all? Health, strength, food, raiment, residence, friends, relations, comfort, pleasure, hope, usefulness, — all our benefits have dropped from thy gracious hand; and there has not been a day, or an hour, or a moment, but has published thy kindness and thy care.

Especially would we acknowledge thy goodness in con-

tinuing to us the means of grace. Whatever has been denied us, we have had the provisions of thy house. The toils and trials of the week have been refreshed and relieved by the delights of the sabbath. Our eyes have seen our teachers; our ears have heard the joyful sound of the gospel; and our hearts have often said, Lord, it is good for us to be here.

And O that every moment of the past year could, if called upon — and it *will* be called upon — bear witness to our gratitude, love, and obedience. O that it was not in its power to convict us of the most unworthy requitals of thy goodness. To Thee, O Lord, belong glory and honor, but to us shame and confusion of face. O who can understand his errors? O how many duties have we neglected or improperly performed. How little have we redeemed our time or improved our talents. How little have we been alive to thy glory, or sought, or even seized, when presented, opportunities of serving our generation. How unprofited have we been under the richest means of religious prosperity; and when for the time we ought to be able to teach others, we have need to be again taught ourselves which be the first principles of the oracles of God.

God be merciful to us sinners. Pardon our iniquity, for it is great. Cleanse us from all unrighteousness, and work in us to will and to do of thy good pleasure. Let us not carry one of our old sins with us into the new year unforgiven, unrepented of, unbewailed, unabhorred. With a new portion of time, may we have new hearts and become new creatures.

If this year we should die — and in the midst of life we are in death — may death prove our eternal gain. And if our days are prolonged, may we walk before the Lord in the land of the living, and show forth all thy praise.

The number of our months is with Thee. In thy hand our breath is, and thine are all our ways. Prepare us for all, and be with us in all, and bring us safely through all, into the rest that remains for thy people; for the sake of our Lord and Savior: in whose words we call Thee, Our Father who art in heaven; hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

FIRST MORNING OF THE NEW YEAR.

Of old Thou hast laid the foundation of thee arth; and the heavens are the work of thy hands. They shall perish, but Thou shalt endure; yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt Thou change them, and they shall be changed: but Thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end. Through all the successions of time, which with us constitute the past, the present, and the future, I AM is thy name; and this is thy memorial in all generations. We desire, O God, with the profoundest reverence, to contemplate the eternity of thy nature. May our minds be filled with elevation and grandure at the thought of a Being with whom one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years are as one day; a Being, who, amidst all the revolutions of empire, and the lapse of worlds, feels no variableness nor shadow of turning. How glorious, with immortality attached to them, are all thy attributes! and how secure are the hopes and happiness of all those who know thy name, and put their trust in Thee!

May we rejoice, that while men die, the Lord liveth; that while all creatures are found broken reeds and broken cisterns, He is the Rock of ages, and the Fountain of living waters. O that we may turn away our hearts from vanity; and among all the dissatisfactions and uncertainties of the present state, look after an interest in that everlasting covenant which is ordered in all things and sure. May we seek after a union with thyself, as the strength of our heart and our portion forever, and be partakers ourselves of the immutability we adore; for Thou hast assured us that while the world passeth away and the lusts thereof, he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.

We thank Thee that Thou hast revealed to us the way in which a fallen and perishing sinner can be eternally united to thyself; and that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. In his name we come. O receive us graciously. Justify us freely from all things. Renew us in the spirit of our minds; and bless us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.

By the lapse of our days and weeks and years, which we are called upon so often to remark, may we be reminded how short our life is, and how soon we shall close our eyes on every prospect below the sun. Suffer us not to neglect the claims of eternity in the pursuit of the trifles of time; but knowing how frail we are, may we be wise enough to choose that good part which shall not be taken away from us; and before we leave the present evil world, may we secure an inheritance in another and a better. May thoughts of death and eternity so impress our minds, as to put seriousness into our prayers and vigor into our resolutions; may they loosen us from an undue attachment to things seen and temporal; so that we may weep as though we wept not, and rejoice as though we rejoiced not.

And remembering that the present life, so short, so uncertain, and so much of which is already vanished, is the only opportunity we shall ever have for usefulness, may we be concerned with a holy avarice to redeem the time. May we be alive and awake at every call of charity and piety. May we feed the hungry, and clothe the naked; may we instruct the ignorant, reclaim the vicious, forgive the offending, diffuse the gospel; and consider one another, to provoke one another unto love and good works, not forsaking the assembling ourselves together, as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as we see the day approaching.

As we have entered on a new period of life, may we faithfully examine ourselves, to see what has been amiss in our former temper or conduct; and in thy strength may we resolve to correct it. And may we inquire for the future, with a full determination to reduce our knowledge to practice, Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?

Prepare us for all the duties of the ensuing year. All the wisdom and strength necessary for the performance of them must come from thyself; may we therefore live a life of self-distrust, of divine dependence, and of prayer; may we ask and receive, that our joy may be full; may we live in the Spirit, and walk in the Spirit.

If we are indulged with prosperity let not our prosperity destroy us nor injure us. If we are exercised with adversity, suffer us not to sink in the hour of trouble, or sin against God. May we know how to be abased without despondence, and to abound without pride. If our relative comforts are continued to us, may we love them without adolatry, and hold them at thy disposal; and if they are recalled from us, may we be enabled to say, The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.

Fit us for all events. We know not what a day may bring forth; but we encourage ourselves in the Lord our God, and go forward. Nothing can befall us by chance. Thou hast been thus far our helper: Thou hast promised to be with us in every condition; Thou hast engaged to make all things work together for our good: all thy ways are mercy and truth. May we therefore be careful for nothing, but in every thing, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, may we make known our requests unto God; and may the peace of God, that passeth all understanding, keep our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Bless, O bless, the young. May each of them, this day, hear Thee saying, My son, give me thy heart; and from this time may they cry unto Thee as the guide of their youth. Regard those who have reached the years wherein they say, We have no pleasure in them. If old in sin, may they be urged to embrace, before it be forever too late, the things that belong to their peace; and if old in grace, uphold them with thy free Spirit, and help them to remember that now is their salvation nearer than when they believed.

Bless all the dear connexions attached to us by nature, friendship, or religion. Grace be to them, and peace be multiplied.

Let our country share thy protection and smiles. Bless all our rulers and magistrates.

Bless all our churches and congregations. Bless all thy ministers; may thine ordinances in their hand be enlivening and refreshing, and thy word effectual to wound and to heal.

May this be a year remarkable for the conversion of souls and the extension of the gospel. Bless all missionary societies; and let the circling months see the banners

of the Redeemer carried forward, till all nations are subdued to the obedience of faith. Our Father, who art in heaven; hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those that trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

GOOD FRIDAY* — MORNING.

O Thou King eternal, immortal, and invisible! though Thou art past finding out unto perfection, we rejoice that we are not called to worship an unknown God. Thou hast not left thyself without witness. We bless Thee for the revelation which Thou hast given us; and that in thy word we can view Thee as the Father of mercies and the God of all grace. All thy works and ways correspond with the names Thou hast assumed, and demand and justify our confidence in Thee. We praise Thee for the displays of thy goodness in the productions of nature and the bounties of thy providence; but above all, for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

Herein Thou hast commended thy love towards us, in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.

We find ourselves this morning at the foot of his cross, where angels are desiring to look into these things — and if they who need no repentance, study the sufferings of Christ and the glory that should follow, how much more

* A day set apart by the church to commemorate our Savior's sufferings and death.

should we, to whom they are not only true and wonderful and sublime, but all-important and infinitely interesting! Help us, O Lord, to turn aside and see this great sight; and not suffer a dying Savior to address us in vain, Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? Behold and see, if ever there was sorrow like unto my sorrow.

Here may we see the value of our souls in the price paid for their deliverance; and instead of neglecting them for the vanities of time and sense, may we regard them according to the estimation in which they were holden by Him who gave his life a ransom for many. Here may we contemplate the evil of sin, and abhor it; here look upon Him whom we have pierced, and mourn for Him. Yet remembering that He was not only slain by us, but for us, may we rejoice in our tears; and by believing, enter into rest.

With humble and holy confidence may we be enabled to say, Surely He hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and with his stripes we are healed.

May we never degrade his death, by fearing that it will not be available for guilt so great and aggravated as ours, even if we depend upon it, and plead it before God; but be fully persuaded that his blood cleanseth from all sin, and that by the one offering up of Himself, He hath perfected forever them that are sanctified.

Yet, O God, never suffer us to sin that grace may abound. May we never crucify the Savior afresh, and put him to an open shame. May he never be wounded in the house of his professing friends. Rather may we live only and wholly for Him who died for us, and adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.

May our old man be crucified with Him, and the body of sin be destroyed, that henceforth we may not serve sin.

May we be planted together in the likeness of his death. As He suffered for us, leaving us an example that we should follow his steps, may we learn of Him submission, and meekness, and forgiveness of injuries. When reviled, may we revile not again; when suffering, may we threaten not, but commit ourselves to Him that judgeth righteously.

Like Him, in all the afflictions of life, may we look to the hand that prepares and presents them, and say, The cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it? Whatever be the cross we are required to bear, may we look before us, and see *Him* carrying a much heavier: carrying it for us, and carrying it without a murmur.

Convert and pardon all those who by their lives or doctrine are the enemies of the cross of Christ. Have mercy upon the descendants of those who shed his blood; and let his dying prayer be answered, Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.

As Thou hast made his soul an offering for sin, may He see his seed, and prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord prosper in his hand. May He see of the travail of his soul and be satisfied; and by his knowledge may He justify many, having borne their iniquities.

Yea, having been lifted up from the earth, may He draw all men unto Him. May all kings fall down before Him, and all nations serve Him; and in all the earth which he has purchased with his own blood, may there be one Lord, and his name one.

And when He who made himself of no reputation, but took upon Him the form of a servant, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross, shall come in his glory, with all the holy angels, may we be enabled to say, Even so, come Lord Jesus; and unite with those, who will be eternally employed in saying, Unto Him

that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God, and to his Father, be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

GOOD FRIDAY—EVENING.

O Thou, whose name alone is Jehovah, the Most High over all the earth: we desire to adore thy perfections and to admire thy works, which are sought out of all them that have pleasure therein.

Thou art the only wise God. Thy power is almighty. Whither can we go from thy presence, or whither can we flee from thy Spirit? Thou art holy in all thy ways. And such is thy purity, that even the heavens are not clean in thy sight.

How shall we come before the Lord, or bow before the high God? We have no offering of our own to bring. No man can redeem his brother, or give to God a ransom for him. The blood of bulls and of goats could not take away sin. The law itself made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did, by the which we draw nigh to God.

Yes, blessed be thy name, Thou hast shown us what is good; and we behold the Lamb of God, who is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

Here a foundation is laid for our hope, in connexion with the highest glory of all thy perfections; and we rejoice to think that while pleading for salvation by the blood of the cross, we ask Thee not to deny thyself, or to trample on thy holy law; for here thy law is magnified and made honorable; here all thy attributes are deve-

loped and harmonized; mercy and truth meet together, righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Here, weary and heavy laden, may we come for relief, and find rest unto our souls. May we take fresh views of this adorable sacrifice under a sense of our constant unworthiness and desert; and in all our approaches to Thee may we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of Him.

May we not only rely upon his cross, but glory in it. Yea, may we joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement. And may we be able, individually, to say, I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life that I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me.

We are thankful that as He atoned for our guilt, so He procured for us the grace of life, that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles, and that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. May we never separate the pardon and sanctification which Thou hast joined together. May we prove that He gave Himself, not only for our sins, but that He might deliver us from this present evil world; yea, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

And O, that in every future moment of our existence, we may be constrained to live, not to ourselves, but to Him that died for us and rose again. As He so loved us, may we also love one another; and never deem any thing too great to do or to suffer, while endeavoring to seek and to save that which is lost.

May the hearts which are too hard to be broken by terror, be melted by love, and gained by confidence. May

none of those who are desirous of returning to Thee, be discouraged by a fear of rejection; but calling to remembrance and belief the infinite proof which Thou has already exhibited of thy benevolence, thus judge,—He that spared not his own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him freely give us all things.

Smile upon our country. Let all the churches of the faithful be edified and multiplied. Bless all the ministers of the everlasting gospel; and may they increasingly determine to know nothing, save Jesus Christ and Him crucified. Increase the number of those who love his salvation; and as He gave Himself a ransom for all, may it be testified in due time; that He may have the heathen for his inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession, and reign King of kings, and Lord of lords.

In his words we conclude our devotions. Our Father who art in heaven; hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

EASTER SUNDAY*—MORNING.

When we consider the heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars which Thou hast ordained; Lord, what is man, that Thou art mindful of him, or the son of man, that Thou visitest him. We are not worthy

* A day set apart in commemoration of our Savior's resurrection.

of an audience at thy footstool; we are not worthy of the least of all thy mercies; our sins have even called aloud for vengeance.

But Thou hast not executed upon us the fierceness of thine anger; because Thou art good as well as great; and thy goodness constitutes thy greatness. Thou hast turned our very fall into an occasion of improving our condition, by advancing us to the possession of greater blessings than we originally enjoyed; so that we not only have life, but have it more abundantly.

For this purpose the Son of thy love was manifested; and in the fulness of time we behold Him assuming our nature, and coming into our world, not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many. We rejoice to see, in his release from the prison of the grave, the evidence of the all-sufficiency and acceptation of the sacrifice He offered on the cross. O help us to consider Him as a risen Savior; and may we feel the power of his resurrection, in establishing our faith, enlivening our hope, and securing our sanctification. May we not only believe his resurrection, but partake of it, and resemble it; that like as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also might walk in newness of life, reckoning ourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

And if risen with Christ, may we give evidence of it, and act becoming it in seeking those things that are above.

May we never leave our spiritual and everlasting condition undecided and unknown; may we never be satisfied till we are able to say, Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheri-

tance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for us.

In all our difficulties and dangers, may we rejoice that He who was dead is alive again, to plead for us, to defend us, and to supply; and has the keys of hell and of death.

In all the afflictions of life, in the decay of nature, and when looking into the horrors of the grave, may we with humble and holy confidence be able to say, I know that my Redeemer liveth, and shall stand at the latter day upon the earth; and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.

Are we called to mourn over the loss of our dear and pious connexions? Let us not sorrow as those who have no hope; but comfort one another with these words, That Jesus died and rose again, and them that sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him.

We glory in the victory which our risen Savior has obtained, not only over death and the grave, but the powers of darkness. We rejoice that He has set judgment in the earth, and that the isles are waiting for his law; that his word is translating into every language, and his servants entering every clime. We hail what He has done as a pledge of his universal triumph. And though we yet see not all things actually put under Him, we see Him, for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; and in possession of all the resources necessary to accomplish the benevolent designs of his heart: and He must reign till *all* his enemies are made his footstool.

Through Him, as the once suffering but now exalted Savior, we address Thee, as Our Father, &c.

EASTER SUNDAY—EVENING.

O Thou ever blessed God, we rejoice to think Thou hast determined to get thyself honor in this apostate part of thy empire, not by the merited infliction of thy justice, but the displays of thy goodness. For Thou hast said, Mercy shall be built up forever, a monument higher than the heavens, more durable than eternity, and inscribed to the praise of the glory of thy grace, wherein Thou hast made us accepted in the Beloved.

We bless Thee for the appointment and revelation of the one only Mediator between Thee and us; by whose death sinners are reconciled, and by whose life they are saved. Thou hast laid on Him the iniquity of us all. Surely He hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and with his stripes we are healed.

Establish in our minds a full persuasion that He was delivered for our offences, and raised again for our justification; and may we above all things be concerned to know, not only that he is risen again, but that we are quickened together with Christ, and raised up, and made to sit with Him in the heavenly places. May we hold communion with Him as a living and reigning Savior, able to carry on our cause, and save unto the uttermost all that come unto God by Him.

Is He not head over all things unto his body the church? Is He not exalted to be a Prince and a Savior? Has He not assured us, that because He lives, we shall live also? May we view Him as the first fruits of them that sleep; and believe that as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. May we view his resurrection, not only as the pledge, but the model of our

own; knowing that He shall not only change our vile body, but fashion it like *his* own glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue *all* things unto Himself.

Thou hast appointed a day in which Thou wilt judge the world in righteousness by that man whom Thou hast ordained; and Thou hast given assurance of it unto all men, in that Thou hast raised Him from the dead. O save us from the wrath of the Lamb. May we tremble at the thought of appearing before Him, if we have neglected his salvation, despised his precious blood, and resisted his Holy Spirit.

Let not the head stone of the corner be a stone of stumbling and a rock of offence; but as He is chosen of God and precious, may He be precious to us. And while He is living for us in heaven, may we be living for Him on earth. May we esteem it our highest honor to be like Him, and feel it our greatest pleasure to serve Him.

And let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that Thou hast made that same Jesus whom their fathers crucified, both Lord and Christ. May the veil be taken from their heart, and may they behold as in a glass his glory.

As a nation, be merciful unto us and bless us. May this Christian country be a country of Christians; and let all who name the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

Bless all those who preach Jesus and the resurrection. May they preach with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven. May their sound go into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.

As yet, after all we have read and heard and experienced, we know but little of the value of the gospel; but we know enough to induce us to be thankful for our religious advantages, to sympathize with those who are without Christ, and to pray that in Him all the families

of the earth may be blessed, and all generations call Him blessed.

Now the God of Peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do his will, working in us that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ: to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

WHITSUNDAY* — MORNING.

O God, Thou hast established thy throne in the heavens, and thy kingdom ruleth over all; and all nations before Thee are as nothing. Yet, blessed be thy name, it is only in comparison with thy infinite greatness, that they are nothing — not in reference to thy condescension and kindness and care. Even as individuals we have been the charge of thy providence; goodness and mercy have always attended us, and having obtained help of Thee we continue to this day. Thou hast been mindful of our souls as well as our bodies; yea, Thou wast pleased to form a purpose of grace in our favor, and devise means the most glorious to deliver us from the degradation and misery and perdition of sin, and to make us partakers of the hope of eternal life.

We bless Thee for the dispensation of religion under which it is our exalted privilege to live. How superior are our advantages to those enjoyed by many of thy people in earlier ages. The law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. Prophets and righteous men desired to see the things which we see, and

* A festival observed in remembrance of the descent of the Holy Ghost upon the apostles.—Acts ii, 3.

did not see them; and to hear the things which we hear, and did not hear them; but blessed are our eyes for they see, and our ears for they hear. Instead of a portion of revelation, we have the sacred scriptures complete. Instead of the blackness and darkness and tempest of Sinai, we have the milder glories and the still small voice of Zion. We have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

We praise Thee for the establishment of the glorious gospel, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard Him; God also bearing them witness, with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will. We rejoice, that though his supernatural agency has ceased with its necessity, the ministry of the Spirit continues, and that his saving influences are confined to no period of the church. All that have been enlightened and renewed since the fall, have been the subjects of his operation; and with Thee is the residue of the Spirit.

We rejoice that as there is no blessing we so much need, so there is no blessing we are so much encouraged to implore; for thy truth has said, If ye, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give his Holy Spirit to them that ask Him.

O Thou God of all grace, fulfil the word unto thy servants, upon which Thou hast caused us to hope. Impart unto us thy Holy Spirit, to open the eyes of our understanding, to sanctify our affections, to comfort our hearts, to glorify Christ, by taking of the things of Christ, and showing them to us.

May we never commit the sin against the Holy Ghost.

Never quench the Spirit. Never resist the Holy Ghost. Never grieve the Holy Spirit. But may we pray in the Holy Ghost, and worship God in the Spirit, and be led by the Spirit, and be filled with the Spirit.

May we always view thy commands in connexion with thy promises, and our duties and trials in connexion with our resources. Great is our work, great is our warfare, and far greater than we have ever yet felt it to be, is our weakness. But our sufficiency is of God; and Thou hast said, I will never leave thee nor forsake thee. Not by might nor by power, but my Spirit, saith the Lord.

Let the goings of our God and our King be seen in the sanctuary; and when thy truth is dispensed, let it come to those who hear it, not in word only, but in power and in the Holy Ghost, and with much assurance.

And bless not only the gates of Zion, but all the dwelling-places of Jacob. May every family contain a church in the house. Pour thy blessing upon our seed, and thy Spirit upon our offspring; and may the rising race grow up the ornaments, examples, and benefactors, of their day and generation.

To Thee we commend all who have the rule over us; we implore thy favorable regards to the privileged country in which we live. Humble us before Thee for our sins, especially our neglect and abuse of our religious advantages. Withdraw not from us the blessings we have forfeited; and inflict not upon us the judgments we have deserved. But spare us according to the greatness of thy mercy.

And from our land of vision, may the light break forth upon all those who are in darkness and the region of the shadow of death.

Bless all missionary exertions. Let the various societies employed in this work of faith and labor of love, view

each other with pleasure, and rejoice in each other's success; and if not in immediate and personal co-operation, yet in accordance, and tendency, and design, may they stand fast in one spirit, with one mind, striving together for the faith of the gospel. Let those who remain at home, hold forth the word of life in their own circles, and be concerned to evangelize the districts in which they reside. But O, let there not be a deficiency of those who offer themselves to the help of the Lord among the heathen, and that say, Lord, send me. Let it be said, as it was in the beginning of the gospel, The Lord gave the word, great was the company of them that published it.

And be with those that are already engaged. We know that Paul can only plant, and Apollos water; but Thou canst give the increase.

Pour thy Spirit from on high, and the wilderness shall become a fruitful field. Our Father who art in heaven; hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

WHITSUNDAY—EVENING.

O Thou author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, and whose service is perfect freedom; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, and give us grace whereby we may serve Thee acceptably, with reverence and with godly fear.

We adore Thee as the Creator of all things, visible and invisible. Thou art the maker of our earth; and Thou art the maker of man upon it; and Thou madest man upright in the possession of thy image and the enjoyment of thy presence. But man, being in honor, abode not. Our first father sinned; and we have borne his iniquity. We have gone astray from our birth; and in numberless instances have evinced ourselves to be the degenerate offspring of a fallen original — and there is no health in us. As transgressors of thy law, we are under the curse; and did our deliverance depend upon ourselves, we must lie down in endless despair. We admit, in all its extent, the testimony of thy word against us; but admire, with gratitude, the developement of a plan of mercy and grace, divinely appropriate to all our wants and woes, and uniting the highest display of thy highest glory with the salvation of sinners.

Adored be the benevolence that led the Son of thy love, before the foundation of the world, to say, Lo! I come to do thy will, O God; thy law is within my heart. Blessed be the day when the angels saw Him who was rich for our sakes becoming poor, that we through his poverty might be rich. Blessed be the hour, when the Prince of Life bore our sins in his own body on the tree; and having obtained eternal redemption for us, ascending up on high, leading captivity captive, and receiving gifts for men, even the rebellious also, that the Lord God might dwell among them. We rejoice that Christianity was originally preached, with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; and in the demonstration of the Spirit was so firmly established, that the gates of hell can never prevail against it. We praise Thee that at so early a period the sun of righteousness, in the knowledge of the gospel, arose with healing under his wings, upon this distinguished land, and

said, Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. And O what reason have we to be thankful if this gospel has come to us not in word only, but in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance.

For we bless Thee that though miracles have ceased, yet thy Spirit is insured to thy people to the end of the world, as the source of light and life, and peace and joy; giving testimony to the word of thy grace, and working in the souls of men to will and to do of thy good pleasure.

O Thou Author of all good, save us, we beseech Thee, by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Ghost. May we be found in the number of those who are born of the Spirit, and give evidence of it by our walking after the Spirit, and our minding the things of the Spirit. Instead of judging ourselves by dreams, fancies, and impressions, may we prove what is acceptable unto the Lord, and remember that the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth.

We desire, O God, to acknowledge our entire dependence upon Thee. Whatever time we have been engaged in thy service, we are still in the body, and feel our need of the continuance of those counsels, supports, and consolations, which have ever been afforded us. Cast us not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

In all the dangers to which we are exposed, uphold us by thy free Spirit; and may we not think it enough to be preserved from falling, but may we go forward, and be always abounding in the work of the Lord. Strengthen us with might by thy Spirit, in the inner man, for every purpose of the christian life; and may we be satisfied with no attainment, till we are filled with all the fulness of God.

Awaken the careless; convince of their error and guilt all those who deny or vilify the work of thy grace; and plant in their consciences the conviction, that if any man have not the Spirit of Christ he is none of his.

Pour the spirit of grace and of supplication upon all our congregations. Bless the ministry of the gospel, and make it the ministration of the Spirit, and the power of God to salvation to every one that believeth.

But how can they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without a preacher? How many are there, who by the wretchedness of their condition, if not by their actual desire, are saying, Come over and help us!

Hast Thou not commanded us to pray, that thy kingdom may come? Hast not Thou promised that the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the seas?

May we encourage our expectation by reviewing what Thou hast already accomplished, and remembering that Thou art a God of truth, and the Almighty. May we therefore realize in our minds the delightful period when the heathen shall cast their idols to the moles and to the bats; when Mahometanism and Antichrist shall perish; when the Jews shall look upon Him whom they have pierced and mourn; and among Protestants, every plant which our heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.

But why are thy chariot-wheels so long in coming? Why does the whole creation groan and travail in pain together until now? How many would say, Lord, now lettest Thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word — could their eyes see thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people; a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

While using the means, may we trust in thy wisdom, as well as thy faithfulness; and hear the voice saying, I the Lord will hasten it in his time.

And to God the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost, be ascribed the kingdom, power and glory, both now and forever. Amen.

THE EVENING AFTER A FUNERAL.

O Thou Father of mercies, and God of all comfort — Thou hast often invited us to thyself by a profusion of kindness; and it manifests our depravity that we think of Thee so little in the hour of ease and prosperity. But we are now before Thee in affliction and distress. Yet we rejoice to know that Thou art a very present and an all-sufficient help in trouble.

Thou takest away, and who can hinder Thee, or say unto Thee, What doest Thou? Thou hast a right to do what Thou wilt with thine own. Thou art a sovereign, and the reasons of thy conduct are often far above out of our sight; but thy work is perfect, thy ways are judgment. All thy dispensations are wise, and righteous, and kind — kind, even when they seem to be severe.

May we hear thy voice in thy rod, as well as in thy word; and gathering from the corrections with which we are exercised the peaceable fruit of righteousness, be able to acknowledge, with all our suffering brethren before us, It is good for me that I have been afflicted.

It is not the Scripture only that reminds us of our living in a dying world, but all observation and experience. Man is continually going to his long home, and the mourners daily go about the streets. And we are all accomplishing as an hireling our day, and in a little time our

neighbors, friends, and relations, will seek us — and we shall not be. Our days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without hope. Thou hast made our days as an hand's breadth, and our age is as nothing before Thee; verily every man at his best estate is altogether vanity. For our days are not only few, but full of evil. Anxieties perplex us; dangers alarm us; infirmities oppress us; disappointments afflict us; losses impoverish us; we are consumed by thine anger, and by thy wrath are we troubled — O shut not thy merciful ear to our prayers; but spare us, O Lord, most holy; O God, most mighty; O holy and most merciful Savior; Thou most worthy Judge eternal, suffer us not, at our last hour, for any bitter pains of death, to fall from Thee.

We acknowledge, O God, with shame and sorrow, that the state of degradation and mortality in which we groan was not our original condition. Thou madest man upright, but he sought out many inventions. Our first father sinned, and we have borne his iniquity. By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death hath passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.

And we bless Thee that this is not our final state. By the discoveries of faith, we see new heavens, and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness. We see the spirits of just men made perfect. We see our vile bodies changed, and fashioned like the Savior's own glorious body; and man, the sinner, raised above the angels who never sinned.

We bless Thee for this purpose of grace, formed before the world began, and accomplished in the fulness of time by the Son of thy love, who hath abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light by the gospel; and who among the ravages of the grave, says, I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he

were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

May it be our immediate and supreme concern to win Christ, and be found in Him; knowing that there is no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus; and that blessed are the dead that die in the Lord.

So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom — that wisdom which will lead us to prefer the soul to the body, and eternity to time; that wisdom which will lead us to secure an interest in a better world, before we are removed from this.

O let not the trifles of time induce us to neglect the one thing needful. While each of us is compelled to say, I know Thou wilt bring me to death, and to the house appointed for all living, may we be enabled also to say, I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed to Him against that day.

And, O, let not the solemnities we have this day witnessed be ever forgotten; for often our most serious impressions have worn off, and our goodness has been as the morning cloud, and as early dew that soon passeth away.

Thou hast permitted death to invade our circle, and hast turned our dwelling into a house of mourning. May we find that it is better to be in the house of mourning, than in the house of mirth. By the sadness of the countenance may the heart be made better, more serious to reflect, and more softened to take impression.

With the feelings of the creature may we blend the views and the hopes of the Christian. May we remember that Thou hast bereaved us, not as an aggressor, but as a proprietor; resuming what was lent us for a season, but never ceased to be thine own. May we therefore be dumb, and open not our mouth, because Thou hast done

it; or if we speak, may it be to acknowledge and pray, I know, O Lord, that thy judgments are right, and that Thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me; let thy loving-kindness be for my comfort, according to thy word unto thy servant.

We bless Thee for thy goodness to the deceased, and that we are not called to sorrow as those who have no hope. We ascribe whatever excellency was found in them to thy grace; and desire to be followers of them, as far as they also were of Christ.

Forgive us in whatever instances we failed in our duty towards them. Let the prayers they offered for us while on earth be answered; may we hold communion with them in our living Redeemer; and look forward to a period of renewed and improved intercourse, in which we shall be forever with each other, and forever with the Lord.

Now unto Him that is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy — To the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

FAST DAY* — MORNING.

Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of thy glory. O for such an impression of thy holiness as Isaiah had, when, penetrated with a sense of his own sin, and the sin of the nation, he exclaimed, Wo is me, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell among a

* The two following prayers are particularly adapted to a fast appointed on account of some great calamity, but with slight alterations may be used on ordinary fast days.

people of unclean lips. Banish all insensibility and indifference from our minds, and unite our hearts to fear thy name.

We lament that the world in which we live, formed to show forth thy praise, was so early defiled by sin; that all flesh corrupted its way before God, and every imagination of the thoughts of the heart was only evil continually. We adore thy awful but righteous displeasure, in bringing the flood upon the world of the ungodly, and taking them all away.

Yet even this tremendous desolation did not hinder the renewed human race from rebelling against Thee; and a long succession of private and public calamities proclaims the desperate depravity of our nature, and the evil of sin. Our world is the empire of death, a vale of tears; and tempests and earthquakes, and war, and pestilence and famine, scatter the tokens of thy wrath, for Thou distributest sorrows in thine anger.

Thy judgments are now abroad in the earth — may the inhabitants thereof learn righteousness. They have reached and invaded us — may we lay them to heart, and be suitably impressed with the afflicting circumstances of the country to which we belong.

We have been equally distinguished by privileges and guilt; and it is impossible for us to review the one, without being reminded of the other. An innumerable multitude of natural, providential, and religious benefits, have distinguished our portion. The lines have fallen to us in pleasant places, yea, we have a goodly heritage. At an arly period the gospel visited our shores, and has continued in the midst of us to this hour. We have lived under the administration of laws, just, mild, and beneficent. We have enjoyed civil and religious freedom. The scriptures have not been withholden from us, nor have

our teachers been removed into a corner — but our eyes have seen our teachers; and sitting under our own vine and fig-tree, none has dared to make us afraid. In our dangers Thou hast appointed salvation for walls and bulwarks; the earth has yielded to us her increase; and God, even our own God, has blessed us.

It is impossible for us to express or conceive the obligations we are under to love and serve Thee.

But we know — and O help us to feel — how unworthily and ungratefully we have behaved ourselves towards our adorable Benefactor. We are a sinful nation, a seed of evil doers, children that are corrupters. The whole head is sick, and the whole heart is faint; from the crown of the head even to the sole of the foot, there is no soundness, but wounds and bruises and putrefying sores. O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto Thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at this day, to our rulers.

But Thou art the Almighty. Thou hast all hearts in thy hand, and all events at thy disposal.

And we have heard that to the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against Him. We are proofs ourselves that thy compassions fail not — hence, though corrected, we are not consumed; and though guilty, we are yet allowed and invited to enter thy presence.

With deep humiliation, not unmingled with hope, may we approach the throne of thy grace, at this time of need. O be merciful unto us and bless us, and cause thy face to shine upon us that we may be saved. For the sake of thy dear Son, who died the just for the unjust, by whose name we are called — behold a country prostrate at thy footstool; and hear the voice which will issue to-day from so many temples and closets, saying, Spare thy people, O Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach.

Remove, if it please Thee, the blow of thy heavy hand, in the calamity which we are deploring; and after giving us such a deliverance as this, may we no more break thy commandments. Or if Thou hast determined to continue the correction, O correct us, but with judgment, not in thine anger, lest Thou bring us to nothing.

Aid thy people in the private and public devotions of the day. Pour out a spirit of grace and of supplication, that we may sorrow after a godly sort. May thy ministers be faithful and fearless; may they cry aloud, and spare not; but lift up their voice like a trumpet, and show thy people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sin.

And let the word that is to be spoken be quick and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing, even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and be a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Our Father who art in heaven; hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

FAST DAY—EVENING.

O God, Thou hast established thy throne in the heavens, and thy kingdom ruleth over all. We prostrate ourselves before Thee, deeply impressed with a sense of the vastness of thy agency and dominion. Thou changest the times and the seasons: Thou removest kings, and set-

test up kings. Empires rise and fall, and fade and flourish, at thy bidding; and all nations are in thy hand but as clay in the hand of the potter.

But none of thy dispensations are arbitrary. Whatever Thou doest, is done, because O Father it seemeth good in thy sight; and the judgment is always according to truth. Thou art holy in all thy ways, and righteous in all thy works — and Thou art good; even in wrath Thou rememberest mercy; and dost not afflict willingly, nor grieve the children of men.

Therefore it is that we have been this day humbling ourselves in thy presence. For we acknowledge that we have been deeply guilty. Thou hast nourished and brought up children, but we have rebelled against Thee. The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib; but we have not known, we have not considered. Thou hast given us our corn, and wine, and oil, and multiplied our silver and gold; and we have prepared them for Baal. Because of swearing, the land has mourned. Pride has compassed us about as a chain. Discontent has rebelled against thine appointments. How has the love of money, which is the root of all evil, abounded among us. How have thy sabbaths been profaned, and thy ordinances disregarded. How has the gospel been undervalued, neglected, despised!

And all our transgressions have been more aggravated than those of any other people, because Thou hast favored us unspeakably more than all the families of the earth.

Therefore Thou couldst easily and justly have destroyed us; but Thou hast not stirred up all thy wrath. In all that has come upon us for our evil deeds, Thou hast punished us less than our iniquities deserve. Yet Thou hast testified thy displeasure, and visited us with thy judgments; so that when we looked for light and peace, we have seen darkness and trouble.

O let us not be inattentive to the design of thy dealings, or insensible under thy rebukes. O let it not be said of us, as it was of the Jews, The harp and the viol, and the tabret and pipe, and wine, are in their feasts, but they regard not the work of the Lord, neither consider the operation of his hand. Thou hast stricken them, but they have not grieved; Thou hast consumed them, but they have refused to receive correction; they have made their faces harder than the rock; they have refused to return.

In the way of thy judgments, O Lord, may we wait for Thee. Thou hast said, Is any afflicted? Let him pray. Call upon me in the day of trouble, and I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me. Fulfil the word unto thy servants, upon which Thou hast caused us to hope. And O, let not the calamity be removed only, but above all, sanctified; let it appear that we have heard the rod, and Him that appointeth it; and be able to say, It is good for us that we have been afflicted.

For which purpose, bless, we beseech Thee, the word of thy grace, which has been spoken; and grant that the professed humiliation of the day may be real—for Thou lookest to the heart. And let it also be universal; may it extend from the highest to the lowest; may it pervade the court and the country; may it enter every church and every family—let none of us lose sight of ourselves in the public calamity. May each individual retire and ask, What have I done?—and what wilt Thou have me to do? And though other lords have had dominion over us, henceforth by Thee only may we make mention of thy name.

Regard the government under which we live. Bless the President of these United States; the representatives of the people; and the magistracy of the land—may all

be wise in counsel, exemplary in conduct, and faithful to their trusts.

And thus may we be reformed, and not destroyed. Thus may we be a holy, that we may be a happy people, whose God is the Lord. Return, O Lord, how long? and let it repent Thee concerning thy servants. O satisfy us early with thy mercy, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Make us glad according to the days wherein Thou hast afflicted us, and the years wherein we have seen evil. Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children. And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us; and establish Thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish Thou it.

And to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be rendered the kingdom, power, and glory, forever and ever. Amen.

FOR A DAY OF THANKSGIVING — MORNING.

O God, Thou art very great, Thou art clothed with honor and majesty; Thou coverest thyself with light as with a garment; Thou walkest upon the wings of the wind. When we reflect on the glory of thy majesty, we are filled with wonder at the vastness of thy condescension. For Thou condescendest even to behold things that are in heaven. What then is man that Thou art mindful of him, or the Son of man that Thou visitest him!

We rejoice that we are under the governance of a Being, who is not only almighty, but perfectly righteous, and wise, and good; that all things in our world are appointed and arranged by thy paternal agency; that thy providence numbers the very hairs of our head, and that a

sparrow falleth not to the ground without our heavenly Father.

Hitherto hath the Lord helped us. We bless Thee for personal mercies. If we are called, it is by thy word. If we are renewed, it is by thy Spirit. If we are justified, it is freely by thy grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. It is in Thee we live and move and have our being. Thy goodness has been always near us, to hear our complaints, to soothe our sorrow, and to command deliverance for us. And numberless are the instances of loving-kindness that now, from ignorance or inattention, elude our notice; the discovery of which will awaken our songs, when we mingle with those who dwell in thy house above and are still praising Thee.

We thank Thee for relative benefits; for blessings on our families, blessings on our churches, and blessings on our country. We confess that we are not worthy of the least of all thy mercies, and of all the truth which Thou hast showed unto thy servants. Sins of every kind and of every degree have reigned among us; have spread through all ranks and orders; and continued notwithstanding all warnings and corrections; and if Thou hadst dealt with us after our sins, or rewarded us according to our iniquities, we should long ago have had no name nor place among the nations of the globe.

But to the Lord our God belong mercies and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him. All thy dispensations towards us have said, with a tenderness that ought to penetrate our hearts, How shall I give thee up! Our privileges, never properly improved, and forfeited times without number, have been continued. We still behold our sabbaths, and our ears still hear the joyful sound. Our constitution, liberties, and laws, have not been subverted or impaired. Thou hast given us rains and fruit-

ful seasons; Thou hast filled us with the finest of the wheat; our garners have been affording all manner of store; our oxen have been strong to labor; our sheep have brought forth thousands and ten thousands in our streets. Thou hast spread thy wing, and sheltered us from the pestilence that walketh in darkness, and the destruction that wasteth at noon day. Civil discord has not raged in our land; our shores have not been invaded; we have not heared the confused noise of warriors, nor seen garments rolled in blood — it has not come nigh us. Our enemies have often threatened to swallow us up, but the Lord has been on our side, and they have not prevailed against us. We are this day called upon to acknowledge thy goodness in (——)*

God is the Lord who hath showed us light; bind the sacrifice with cords, even to the horns of the altar. May we never convert our blessings into instruments of provocation, by making them the means of nourishing pride and presumption, wantonness and intemperance; and compel Thee to complain, Do ye thus requite the Lord, O foolish people, and unwise? Is not He thy Father that hath bought thee? Hath He not made thee and established thee?

For this purpose meet with us in thy house; and may the goings of our God and our King be seen in the sanctuary. Be with the preacher and with the hearers; and let the words of his mouth, and the meditation of their hearts, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer. May public instruction awaken the ardor of our feelings. May our gratitude not only be lively, but practical and permanent. And by all thy mercies may we present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto Thee, which is our reasonable service.

* Here let the particular causes for thankfulness be expressed.

Bless the Lord, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word. Bless ye the Lord, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his that do his pleasure. Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion: bless the Lord, O my soul. Amen.

FOR A DAY OF THANKSGIVING—EVENING.

O God, Thou art good, and Thou doest good. Thou art good to all, and thy tender mercies are over all thy works.

We have thought of thy loving-kindness this day, in the midst of thy temple; and are again surrounding this domestic altar to exclaim, O that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men.

We lament to think that a world so filled with thy bounty, should be so alienated from thy service and glory. We mourn over the vileness of our ingratitude, and abhor ourselves, repenting in dust and ashes.

O Thou God of all grace, make us more thankful. In order that we may be more thankful, may we be more humble; impress us with a deep sense of our unworthiness, arising from the depravity of our nature, and countless instances of unimproved advantages, omitted duties, and violated commands. May we compare our condition with our desert, and with the far less indulged circumstances of others. May we never be inattentive to any of thy interpositions on our behalf; but be wise and observe these things, that we may understand the loving-kindness of the Lord.

How many blessings, temporal and spiritual, public and private, hast Thou conferred upon us. Thy mercies have been new every morning, and every moment.

Our afflictions have been few and alleviated, often short in their continuance, and always founded in a regard to our profit. Thy secret has been upon our tabernacle; and we have known Thee in thy palaces for a refuge. The lines have indeed fallen to us in pleasant places, yea, we have a goodly heritage. Thou hast not dealt so with any people. It is a good land which the Lord our God has given us — a land distinguished by knowledge; dignified as the abode of civil and religious freedom; endeared by the patriot's zeal, and the ashes of our forefathers; a land the Lord careth for; and upon which his eye has been from the beginning even to the end of the year.

Thou hast been a wall of fire round about us, by thy providential protection, and the glory in the midst of us, by the gospel of our salvation, the ordinances of religion, and the presence of thy Holy Spirit.

What shall we render unto the Lord for all his benefits towards us? Because Thou hast been our help, therefore under the shadow of thy wing may we rejoice. Because Thou hast heard our voice and our supplication, therefore may we call upon Thee as long as we live; and in every future difficulty and distress, make Thee our refuge and our portion.

Enable us to bless Thee at all times; may thy praise continually be in our mouth; and may we show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives.

Being delivered from the peril and calamity (of ——) with which we have been exercised, may we serve Thee without fear, in holiness and righteousness, all the days of our lives.

We dare not trust our own hearts. We have often resembled thy people of old, who, in the hour of deliverance and indulgence, sang thy praise, and said, All that the Lord commandeth us will we do; but soon forgot his works and the wonders which He had showed them. Keep these things forever in the imagination of our hearts, and not only draw us, but bind us to thyself with the cords of love and the bands of a man.

And with all our calls to gratitude and joy, may we remember that we have also reason for sorrow and humiliation. O give us that repentance which is unto life. Reform as well as indulge us; and pardon as well as spare. Let not our prosperity destroy us, nor our table become a snare. Let us not, by our perverse returns, provoke Thee to visit us with heavier afflictions, and turn the rod into a scorpion. May our ways please the Lord, that we may hope for a continuance of thy favor, and know that all things shall work together for our good.

Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion. Build Thou the walls of Jerusalem. And as the churches have rest, may they walk in the fear of the Lord, and in the comforts of the Holy Ghost, and be multiplied.

Preside over our national counsels; impart wisdom to those who conduct our public affairs; and may all the various classes in the community pursue that righteousness which exalteth a nation, and forsake that sin which is a reproach to any people.

Regard the services in which we have been engaged with the thousands of our Israel; accept the poor and imperfect thanksgivings we have offered; and let thy word which has been dispensed in aid of the devotion of the day, accomplish all the good pleasure of thy goodness —

through Jesus the Lord, our righteousness and strength; and in whose words we address Thee as —

Our Father who art in heaven; hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

PETITIONS

FOR

PARTICULAR OCCASIONS.

FOR RAIN.

—Are there any of the vanities of the Gentiles that can cause rain? Or can the heavens give showers? Art not Thou he, O Lord our God? Therefore will we wait upon Thee, for Thou hast made all these things.

Thou visitest the earth, and waterest it: Thou greatly enrichest it with the river of God which is full of water. Thou makest it soft with showers; Thou blessest the springs thereof. Thy paths drop fatness. They drop upon the pastures of the wilderness, and the little hills rejoice on every side.

We have been made to feel the worth of this blessing by the want of it; and it would be easy for Thee to continue the privation, till the heavens over us were brass, and the earth under us iron; and the husbandman be ashamed for the wheat, and for the barley, because the harvest of the field is perished, and because joy is withered away from the sons of men.

But, O deal not with us after our desert. Turn not a fruitful land into barrenness. Command thy rain to descend. Cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and herbs for the service of man, and bring forth food out of the earth.

FOR FAIR WEATHER.

—How numberless are our wants and dangers! Our hopes are destroyed, not only by the deficiency, but the excess of our supplies. Stop, we pray Thee, the bottles of heaven, which have so long been pouring down water upon us; and cause thy sun not only to rise but to shine. Give us the clear shining after rain, that the earth may yield her increase in maturity, and opportunity be afforded for the wholesome in-gathering of grass for the cattle, and grain for the use of man; that there may be no complaining in our streets, but that we may eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the Lord.

And O, let us not forget our souls, in our mindfulness of the body; nor expend all our concern upon the meat that perisheth, but be above all things anxious to secure that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, and which the Son of man will give, for Him hath God the Father sealed.

IN VIEW OF JOURNEYING.

O God, Thou hast called thyself the Preserver of men, and the length of our days. We are therefore encouraged to commit ourselves to thy guardian care, in the journey before us.

Many have parted with the hope of soon embracing each other again, but instead of returning to their own dwelling, they have been conveyed to the house appointed for all living. We pray, with submission to thy pleasure, that this may not be our experience. Give thine angels charge concerning us to keep us in all our ways.

Let no evil befal our persons, and no plague come nigh our dwelling. May we know also that our tabernacle is in peace, and visit our habitation and not sin.

Yet uncertain what a day may bring forth, may we be prepared for every event of thy providence; and wherever, in dying, we go *from*, may it be our happiness to know where we are going *to*, and rejoice in the prospect, that when all our wanderings and partings are ended, we shall unite in our heavenly Father's house, and be forever with the Lord.

FOR A NEW-MARRIED PARTY.

Bless those who have just entered a state honorable in all. May they remember the vows they have left at the altar, and in the discharge of their personal and relative duty may they make thy word their rule, that mercy and peace may be upon them. May the husband love his wife even as himself, and the wife see that she reverence her husband; and both walk together as heirs of the grace of life, that their prayers be not hindered.

Preserve them from the evils which destroy or diminish the welfare and comfort of the condition in which Thou hast placed them; and may they enjoy all the happiness derivable from prudence, temper, accommodation, real godliness, and the divine blessing.

May they expect to discern infirmities in one another, but may they be always most deeply conscious of their own. And let them not look for unattainable, by looking for unmingled, bliss on earth; but remember that this is not our rest, and be prepared for difficulties, trials, changes, and final separation.

FOR A WOMAN APPROACHING THE TIME OF TRAVAIL.

—Regard thine handmaid who is looking forward to an important hour. Be not Thou far from her when trouble is near. May her mind be kept in perfect peace, being stayed upon the God of her salvation. Bring to the birth, and give strength to bring forth. Soften the pains of labor, as well as command deliverance; and in due time may she remember no more her anguish, for joy that a child is born into the world. And may the root and the branch abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

FOR ONE UNDER SICKNESS.

—Think, O God, for good upon the afflicted; especially him (*or* her) whom we now commend to thy compassionate regard. Comfort him upon the bed of languishing, and make all his bed in his sickness.

If the sickness be unto death, prepare him for the solemn event, and be with him in it. But we are allowed to implore deliverance, with submission; nothing is too hard for the Lord; Thou canst heal as well as wound; we therefore pray, if it be thy good pleasure, that Thou wilt put efficacy into the means, rebuke the disorder, renew the strength, and prolong the days of thy servant.

Above all, let the dispensation be sanctified to the sufferer and his connexions; and may all have reason to acknowledge in the review, It is good for me that I have been afflicted.

FOR A YOUTH GOING FROM HOME.

(If with a View to Business.)

— O God, Thou appointest the bounds of our habitations, and arrangest all our individual concerns; and it is thy pleasure, not only that we should part at death, but often separate in life. When absent from each other in body, may we be present in spirit; and may our natural affection be strengthened and sanctified by inquiry and correspondence, and divine remembrance at the throne of grace.

Regard the member of our family who is now leaving the parental roof and the parental wing. In all his ways may he acknowledge Thee, and be Thou the guide and the guard of his youth. Secure him from the paths of the destroyer and the evils of the world. May uprightness preserve him. In the situation he will be called to fill, may he be dutiful and obliging, and diligent and faithful. May he always remember that the eye of God is upon him; and be not only amiable but pious; and in favor with God as well as man.

(If with a View to a School.)

— O Thou God of providence and grace, we commend to thy care the dear child about to leave our abode for a season in order to receive needful instruction. Let his (or *her*) life be precious in thy sight. May he redeem his time, and acquire the improvement that will fit him for usefulness in his day and generation. And O let him be made wise unto salvation; and let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon him; that he may be a useful and ornamental member in thy church below, and hereafter a pillar in thy temple above, never more to go out.

FOR CHILDREN IN ORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

(All the Petitions need not be used at the same time.)

—O God, Thou art the lovely Father of all mankind. Thou hast implanted in us the parental instincts; and commanded us to train up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. We feel our awful responsibility, and often exclaim, Who is sufficient for these things? But Thou givest wisdom to the ignorant and power to the faint. Aid, O aid us, in discharging the duties we owe to those whom Thou hast given us and continued to us.

We give them up to Thee, who art able to fulfil all our petitions. Rescue them from the numberless accidents and diseases to which they are exposed. Let their tempers be lovely, and meek, and kind. Let their manners be simple and engaging. May they be respectful towards their superiors, obliging towards their equals, and condescending towards their inferiors.

Let not envy and pride and censoriousness render them disdainful to others, and wretched in themselves. May they speak evil of no one. Upon their tongue may there dwell the law of kindness. May they hate and abhor lying, with all deceit and hypocrisy.

May they be always willing to receive instruction, and be diligent in acquiring all the knowledge and improvement that may render them the blessings and ornaments of society.

Keep them from evil company. If sinners entice them, may they never consent; but early may they take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, I will go with you, for I have heard that God is with you.

We seek not great things for them as to this world—

but O, let them live in thy sight; let them be numbered with thy saints in glory everlasting; let them be blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.

Instead of multiplying riches, and leaving them incentives to pride, and vanity, and idleness, and sensuality, and augmenting a thousand fold all the difficulties of their salvation — may we lay up for them treasure in heaven; may we be concerned to leave behind us a large inheritance of prayers and instructions and examples, with the blessing of God, that maketh rich, and addeth no sorrow with it.

If their parents should be taken away from them — when father and mother forsake them, may the Lord take them up. If they should be deprived of their father — be Thou the Father of the fatherless; or should they be deprived of their mother — as one whom his mother comforteth, so do Thou comfort them.

Should they be removed from us in early life, may the heavenly Shepherd gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom; and may we be prepared to resign them. And if, as we submissively implore, their lives should be prolonged — may they grow up, and prove our comfort and honor, serve their generation according to thy will, and walk before Thee in the land of the living.

FOR CRIMINALS IN PRISON.

— Behold, in the greatness of thy mercy, those who are bound in affliction and iron, because they rebelled against the word of God. May they be led to reflect upon the evil of sin, in the degradation and misery to which it has reduced them. Give them repentance unto life; that they may acknowledge that Thou art just in all

that is brought upon them, and be more concerned to obtain deliverance from the wrath to come, than exemption from the hand of civil justice. If, after lengthened confinement, they should be released, let them be rescued from the bondage of corruption, and partake of the glorious liberty of the sons of God; and if appointed unto death, O hear the sighing of the prisoner; and though the flesh be destroyed, let the spirit be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

While we feel an abhorrence of sin, may we always display compassion for sinners, and be thankful that we have been exempted, by the favorableness of our condition in life, by pious relations, by education, by thy restraining and thy sanctifying grace, from so many temptations by which we might have been conquered. Who made us to differ from another; and what have we that we did not receive?

FOR A FRIEND AT SEA.

—The sea is thine as well as the dry land. All the elements obey thy voice. We commend to thy kind and almighty care our friend who is now on the perilous ocean. Give to the winds and the waves commandment to save him. O Thou that art the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of them that are far off upon the sea, encourage and tranquillize his mind by holy reliance on thy Providence. May he not only see, but improve the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep. And should the waters thereof roar and be troubled, and vain be the help of man, hear him in his distresses; make the storm a calm; and bring him to his desired haven.

ADDRESSES

FOR

PARTICULAR SEASONS.

SPRING.

— Thou art the fountain of life. In Thee we live, move, and have our being; and the prerogative of that being is, that we are able to contemplate thy perfections, and rise from thy works — to thyself.

Thou sendest forth thy Spirit, and renewest the face of the earth; and from apparent death, all nature starts into re-animated vigor and joy. In what myriads of productions art Thou displaying afresh the wonders of thy wisdom, power, and goodness — the whole earth is full of thy riches.

While we partake of the general sympathy and delight, may we join with all thy works to praise Thee. And O Thou God of all grace, bless us with the renewing of the Holy Ghost in all the powers of our souls. May old things pass away, and all things become new in Christ. May the beauty of the Lord be upon us; and the joy of the Lord be our strength.

May the young remember that they are now in the spring of life, and that *this* spring, once gone, returns no more. May they therefore eagerly seize, and zealously improve, the short, but all important season, for the cultivation of their minds, the formation of their habits, the

correction of their tempers, their preparation for future usefulness, and their gaining that good part which shall not be taken away from them.

SUMMER.

—We hail Thee in the varying aspects of the year, and bless Thee for all their appropriate influences and advantages. O let us not view them and enjoy them as men only, but as christians also; and ever connect with them the better blessings of thy grace.

How wise and useful and necessary are these intermingled rains and sunbeams! May Jesus, as the Sun of righteousness, arise upon us, with healing under his wings; and may He come down as rain upon the mown grass, and as showers that water the earth.

When we walk by the cooling brook, may we think of that river, the streams whereof make glad the city of God.

When we retire from the scorching warmth of the day into the inviting shade, may we be thankful for a rest at noon, a shelter from the heat, the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.

May thy servants behold the moral fields, that are already white unto harvest, and be all anxiety to save the multitudes that are perishing for lack of knowledge.

The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; we therefore pray that Thou wilt send forth laborers into thy harvest.

He that gathereth in summer is a wise son; he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame. Now is our accepted time, now is our day of salvation. O let us not waste our precious privileges, and in a dying hour exclaim, The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.

AUTUMN.

—How fleeting, as well as varying, are the seasons of the year. How insensibly have the months of spring and summer vanished! Nature has no sooner attained its maturities, than we behold its declension and decay. The fields are now shorn of their produce; the beauties of the garden are withered; the woods are changing their verdure, and the trees shedding their foliage—we also never continue in one stay. Many of our connexions and comforts have already dropped away from us; and the remaining are holden by a slender tenure—while we ourselves do all fade as a leaf—and in a little time our places will know us no more.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for the announcement of an inheritance that fadeth not away. O for a hope full of immortality—for a possession of that good part which shall not be taken away from us.

WINTER.

—O Thou God of nature and providence; manifold are thy works; in wisdom hast Thou made them all, and all are full of thy goodness. The welfare of thy creatures requires the severity of winter as well as the pleasures of spring. We adore thy hand in all. Thou givest snow like wool; Thou scatterest the hoar frost like ashes; Thou sendest abroad thine ice like morsels: who can stand before thy cold?

But we bless Thee for a house to shelter us, for raiment to cover us, for fuel to warm us, and for all the ac-

commodations that render life, even at this inclement season, not only tolerable, but full of comfort.

> — Not more than others we deserve,
> Yet God has given us more. —

May we be grateful; and may we be pitiful. May we reflect on the condition of those who are the victims of every kind of privation and distress — and waste nothing, hoard nothing — but hasten to be the ministers of mercy, and the disciples of Him who went about doing good.

O let the rich *now* deservedly prize their wealth, and use it as the instrument of usefulness. May they be willing to communicate, ready to distribute; and enjoy the blessing of him that is ready to perish, and make the widow's heart to sing for joy.

A TIME OF THUNDER AND LIGHTNING.

— With Thee is terrible majesty. Thou lookest on the earth, and it melteth; Thou touchest the mountains, and they smoke. Thou thunderest in the heavens, and all nature shudders at thy voice. How vain now is the help of man! Who can resist thy will! We fell ourselves to be nothing, less than nothing, and vanity. Our very houses are no protection now! O Thou, to whom belong the issues from death, defend our persons and our dwelling. May we always stand in awe of Thee, and sin not. May we know that this awful God is ours, our Father and our Friend; and may we have boldness in that day, when the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements melt with fervent heat, and the earth also, and all the works that are therein, shall be burnt up.

THANKSGIVINGS

FOR

PARTICULAR EVENTS.

FOR RAIN AFTER A LONG DROUGHT.

— Thou hast never left thyself without witness, but hast been continually doing good, even to the unthankful and unworthy, in giving them rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling their hearts with joy and gladness. We acknowledge that the heavens over us might have been brass, and the earth under us iron. We have justly deserved the calamity; and thy power, without a miracle, could have inflicted it. But though Thou hast tried our patience, and awakened our fears, Thou hast not forgotten to be gracious. We praise Thee for sending us the seasonable and plentiful rain, by which Thou hast refreshed and revived the drooping fields, so that the earth promises to yield her increase.

FOR FAIR WEATHER AFTER MUCH RAIN.

O God, Thou art good, and doest good. Thou hast again surpassed our deserts, and been better to us than our fears. Thou hast caused the clear shining after rain,

so that in the meadows the hay appeareth, and in the fields. Thou art preparing of thy goodness for the poor. Thou preservest man and beast. May we feel our entire dependence upon Thee, and by prayer and praise give Thee the glory that is due unto thy holy name.

FOR A GOOD HARVEST.

—Again Thou hast crowned the year with thy goodness. The grain might have perished in the earth, or have failed of maturity for want of the showers and of the sunshine. But Thou wast pleased to bless the springing thereof; and we saw, first the blade, then the ear, and after that the full corn in the ear. We hailed the vallies standing thick with corn, and heard the little hills rejoicing on every side. In due time the mower filled his hands, and the binder of sheaves his bosom; and the appointed weeks of harvest have been afforded us to gather in the precious produce. O that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! For He satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.

We have again witnessed thy faithfulness and truth in the promise, While the earth remaineth, seed time and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night, shall not cease. May we learn to trust Thee in all thy engagements.

And make us thankful, that as we have no famine of bread, so we have no famine of hearing the word of the Lord. With regard to the soul, as well as to the body, Thou fillest us with the finest of the wheat.

FOR PEACE.

O Thou that stillest the noise of the seas, the noise of their waves, and the tumult of the people; we bless Thee that Thou hast made peace in our borders, and called us to adore Thee, as the repairer of the breach, the restorer of paths to dwell in.

We lament the evils of war, both natural and moral; and confess with shame, that ever since man became an apostate from Thee, he has been an enemy to his brother, and that from the death of Abel our earth has been a field of blood. O let thy word be speedily accomplished. Let the nations learn war no more, but beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks; and only emulate each other in husbandry, and commerce, and science, and religion.

O Thou Prince of Peace, preside in every council. May all public teachers recommend peace. In private life may we follow peace with all men; and cherish the principles and the dispositions which will prepare us for that world where we shall enter into peace, and the sound of war will be heard no more.

FOR A SAFE RETURN FROM A JOURNEY.

— As the keeper of Israel Thou hast been with us, not only in the house, but by the way. We might have been injured by wicked and unreasonable men. We might have been left groaning under the pain of bruised or fractured limbs. Our lives might have been spilt like water

on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again; and the first tidings that reached our friends might have plunged them into anguish.

But all our bones can say, Who is a God like unto Thee? Thy secret too in our absence has been upon our tabernacle, and secured it from all evil. O that it may be the tabernacle of the righteous; and be ever filled, not only with the voice of rejoicing but of praise.

And be with us in all the future journey of life. Guide us by thy counsel. Uphold us by thy power; and supply all our wants, till we come to our Father's house in peace.

FOR RECOVERY FROM SICKNESS.

—All our times are in thy hand. All diseases come at thy call, and go at thy bidding. Thou redeemest our life from destruction, and crownest us with loving kindness and tender mercies. We bless Thee that Thou hast heard prayer, and commanded deliverance for our friend and thy servant, who has been under thine afflicting hand. He (*or* she) was brought low, but Thou hast helped him. Thou hast chastened him sore, but not delivered him over unto death. May he not only live, but declare, the works of the Lord.

As Thou hast delivered his eyes from tears, his feet from falling, and his soul from death, may he daily inquire, What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits towards me? and resolve to offer unto Thee the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and to call upon the name of the Lord.

And may we ever remember that a recovery is only a reprieve; that the sentence which dooms us to the dust is

only suspended; and that at most, when a few years are come, we shall go the way whence we shall not return. May we therefore secure the one thing needful, and live with eternity in view.

FOR SAFE DELIVERY IN CHILD-BIRTH.

—We bless Thee on the behalf of thine handmaid, who is now saying, I love the Lord, because He hath heard my voice and my supplication. Thou hast been with her in the hour of pain and peril, and made her the joyful mother of a living and well formed infant. Complete thy goodness by the renewal of her strength, and her ability to appear again in all the duties of her important station.

Let the impressions produced by recent mercies be rendered as durable as they are lively. May she remember, and pay Thee the vows which her soul made when in trouble.

May the life spared, and the life given, be dear in thy sight, and devoted to thy glory; and may every addition made to the world of creatures be found an accession to the church of the living God.

FOR THE RETURN OF A FRIEND FROM SEA.

—What shall be done unto Thee, O thou Preserver of men? We offer to Thee the sacrifice of praise, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to thy name, for thy goodness towards our friend and thy servant, whom Thou hast delivered from the dangers of the pitiless deep. Thou

wast with him when trouble was nigh; and at thy command were the issues from death. Others have found a watery grave, till the sea shall give up her dead; but he has returned alive and in comfort. Many are weeping over the loss of those for whom they long anxiously waited; but we have embraced the desire of our eyes; and in the multitude of thy tender mercies we pay Thee the vows of renewed intercourse.

APPENDIX.

PRIVATE MORNING PRAYER.

Almighty and heavenly Father, who art about my path, and about my bed, and spiest out all my ways; I come to Thee in the name of thy beloved Son, and in obedience to his direction, to enter my closet, and shut to my door, and pray to my Father which is in secret. Thou seest in secret: O now hear me.

Thou, O Lord, art a shield for me, my glory, and the lifter up of mine head. I laid me down and slept; I awaked, for Thou, Lord, sustained me. For restored light, for life, and health, and strength, I praise and bless Thee. Thou, Lord, only, keepest me in safety and free from evil. Thou providest for all my wants. May my soul, and all that is within me, magnify God for all his goodness, and especially for his wonderful mercy in redeeming sinners by Jesus Christ; for the light of that Sun of righteousness which ariseth with healing in his wings on benighted souls; for all the blessings of free salvation through Him, all the means of grace and the hope of future glory.

But, sad are the returns that I have made for so many mercies. How ungrateful have I been! I acknowledge and bewail my manifold sins and rebellions. I was born in sin, and a child of wrath, and I find continually the flesh lusting against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh, so that I cannot do the things that I would. I am

guilty, sinful, and weak. Lord, save me, or I perish. I entirely depend on thy mercy in Christ Jesus, for the gift and continuance of every good, and for deliverance from all those evils which I have justly deserved. For that mercy I now look.

Remember me O Lord with the favor that Thou bearest unto thy people. O visit me with thy salvation; that I may see the good of thy chosen, that I may rejoice in the gladness of thy nation, that I may glory with thine inheritance. May the grace of God which bringeth salvation, teach me, and all men, to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world. Enable me now, and ever hereafter, to seek the glory of thy holy name, by fulfilling every duty of my station conscientiously and diligently. Give me grace to be continually looking to Thee, through this day, for direction, assistance, and strength. Be Thou in all my thoughts, and let me acknowledge Thee in all my ways. Give me the same mind that was in Christ Jesus, that I may be humble, patient, gentle, and full of love, even as he was. Teach me to be poor in spirit, and meek; to mourn for sin, and to hunger and thirst after righteousness; and thus shall I obtain the blessings of the kingdom of Christ. Grant that I may love that Savior whom I have not seen, and believing in Him, may I rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.

And here, constrained by thy mercies, I would afresh present my body a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto Thee, which is my reasonable service. I renew in thy presence all the solemn vows I have made, renouncing the world, the flesh, and the devil! and steadfastly purposing, by thy help, to keep thy holy will and commandments, and walk in the same this and every day of my life. I take Thee, my God, for my portion, and thy

laws as my rule, and thy service as my duty, entreating Thee to give me grace that I may be wholly thine.

And O that all mankind knew and served the Lord. Grant that the kingdom which is righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost, may be established in every land, in every heart. Fulfil thy gracious promises. Send thy Gospel to the Gentiles, and let them be turned from darkness to light. Let the kingdoms of this world speedily become the kingdoms of our God and his Christ, that He may reign forever.

Grant the abundance of thy Holy Spirit to the ministers of Christ every where, and especially to him who watches over my soul. Bless the place and neighborhood in which I live, and prosper every effort to do good. Lord I beseech Thee also, to bless my more immediate relations. Regard with thy favor my parents, my brothers and sisters, my benefactors and friends, my connections and acquaintance. Look upon them in mercy, and visit them with thy salvation. Hear these prayers, for the only sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Father who art in heaven; hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those that trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

PRIVATE EVENING PRAYER.

Gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, great in power, and rich in mercy to all them that call upon Thee, help me now so, in the name of Christ, to ask, that I may have; and so to seek, that I may find.

Enter not into judgment with me, O Lord, for in thy sight I cannot be justified. However unblameable I may appear before men, before Him who knows the heart, I confess and would mourn over innumerable sins in the past day, and in every day of my life. I acknowledge with shame and sorrow my hypocrisy and pride, my vanity and selfishness, my unbelief and impatience, my self-indulgence and self-righteousness, my obstinacy and self-will, my disregard of thy law and thy glory, my living to myself and not to Thee. And, O how hard is my heart, that feels so little the guilt and the evil of so many and such great sins!

Lord of all power and might, soften and break this hard heart. Give me a contrite spirit. There is mercy with Thee. There is forgiveness with Thee. O may thy great mercy be displayed towards me, in pardoning all my sins, and in renewing my soul. Give me penitence, faith, and self-denial. Bestow on me the graces of sincerity, humility, and love. May the love of Christ be more known and felt by me, and let it constrain me to live not to myself, but to Him that died for me. Grant me thy Holy Spirit, teaching me those things of which I am ignorant, taking of the things of Christ to shew them unto me, and daily sanctifying my heart. I ask for heavenly wisdom, holy simplicity, ardent zeal, and purity of heart. Incline me to study to be quiet, and to do my own business, and to work with my own hands. Prepare me, day by day, more and more for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Make me meet to be a partaker of the inheritance of the saints in light.

I commend myself to thy care during the night. May I lay down at peace with thee, through Christ, and in peace with all the world.

O Lord, though I be unworthy, through my manifold transgressions, to approach Thee at all, yet Thou hast commanded that intercessions be made for all men; hear me, therefore, unworthy though I be, in behalf of all that need my prayers. May the Lord comfort his people, and have mercy upon his afflicted. Let all nations whom Thou hast made, come and worship before Thee, and glorify thy name. Let every obstacle which may hinder the progress of thy truth be removed in mercy. Bless all the members of the Church of Christ, and all his ministers, and especially those with whom I am more intimately connected.

Give to my parents, my brothers, my sisters, and my relatives, all those temporal and spiritual blessings of which they stand in need. Bless my superiors, my companions, and all about me. Continue the blessing of peace to my country. Put into the hearts of all mankind the fear and love of God. Pardon any who may have injured me, and if I have injured any, may I be ready to confess my fault, and to make restitution for any wrong done, and may they be disposed to forgive me.

I would not, O Thou gracious Giver of every good, close my evening prayer, without offering up, through Christ Jesus, my sincerest thanksgiving for all the mercies of the past day. For any help vouchsafed in my duties; for any stand which I may have been enabled to make against sin, Satan, and the world; for any measure of light, knowledge, or grace, given unto me, all praise, all glory be to Thee. If I am still kept in thy way, and yet spared from that ruin which I have deserved, while I live, let me praise and bless Thee. How great is the sum of thy mercies! When I look back on thy past blessings, when I read thy promises relating to that which is to come, and when I look around me on every side, and

especially, when I regard that cross on which thy Son died for sinners, I would say from the heart, My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord, and let all flesh bless his holy name forever. Amen, and Amen.

Hear me for the only sake of Jesus Christ.

Our Father who art in heaven; hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

FOR A FRIEND AT SEA.*

O Thou, who art the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth: We know Thou art the God of the sea as well as the land; for Thou makest the clouds thy chariot, and the dark waters thy pavilion. The elements obey thy voice and all nature is subject to thy control. With humble confidence we approach Thee, and entreat thy protecting care in behalf of our friend, who is now exposed to the dangers of the ocean. We know not what things await him, nor can we tell the changes through which he may be called to pass — but to Thee we commend him, — and wherever he may be, and under whatever circumstances placed, implore for him thy presence and blessing. Preserve his life and health; and if at any time he should be threatened with sudden destruction, O hear Thou his cry, and turn not away thine ear from his entreaties, but save him from death, that he may live to praise Thee and to make mention of thy goodness in the

* With a little variation, the same form may be used for one who is going to sea, or for a number of persons.

congregation of thy people. And if he shall return no more to us, may we meet him in heaven — which we ask for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

FOR THE RETURN OF A FRIEND FROM SEA.

O God, Thou art good, and Thou doest good, and thy tender mercies are over all the works of thy hands. We thank Thee for the privilege of addressing thy throne at all times, and offering unto Thee the grateful homage of our hearts. And now that Thou hast heard our prayer, and returned in safety our friend from the dangers of the mighty deep, we desire to render Thee the tribute of praise and thanksgiving. While others have gone out to return no more, he has been spared; and while those who were dear to them, are weeping with sorrow, we are filled with joy. O help us to testify our gratitude by the holiness of our lives, and to show by our obedience to thy will, that we are truly thankful for thy favors. Through all the remaining vicissitudes of our earthly state may we trust in Thee — and in death, be enabled to commit our souls to Him who hath loved us and given himself for us, and to whom as unto a faithful Creator, with the Father, and the Holy Spirit, be all glory forever. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Our Father who art in heaven, we adore Thee as the everlasting God, by whom the worlds were made, and by whom all things are upheld and governed. The heavens declare thy glory and the earth is full of thy riches; Thou

art good unto all, and thy tender mercies are over all thy works. We praise Thee for our bodies and our souls, so fearfully and wonderfully made; for our capacities and faculties, designed not only for this short life, but for eternity; and for our various means and advantages for knowledge, and virtue, and happiness. We bless thy name, that in the greatness of thy mercy towards our fallen race, Thou hast sent thine only begotten Son into the world to manifest thy will, and to die for us; and that there is redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of our sins, renewal unto holiness, and the unfailing hope of heavenly glory, to all who penitently receive Him. We thank Thee for the gospel in which all this grace is revealed, and all this blessedness. O that our hearts may be duly affected by this wonderful display of thy love. Convinced by thy Holy Spirit of the corruption of our nature, and made contritely sensible of our innumerable offences against Thee, may we deeply feel our need of redemption from sin and from wo. And looking with true penitence and faith to thy Son Jesus Christ, as our Redeemer and Savior, may we obtain forgiveness and peace through his blood, be purified in heart and practice, even as He is pure; and as his humble and devoted disciples, may we live henceforth not to ourselves but to Him who hath called us into his kingdom and glory.

We offer our prayer to Thee, O our Father, especially for the dear youth and children who are statedly convened here, under thy kind providence, for instruction according to thy holy word. They are in the infancy of being, just beginning to think, and feel, and act, for eternity. Naturally they know Thee not, and their hearts are not right with thy law, or thy truth; and in this evil world they are exposed to innumerable errors, and vices, and ruinous influences. They need thy mercy; they need thy

care; O may they be kept by thy Spirit. May they early remember their Creator, and inquire earnestly after Thee. May they duly prize the opportunities and privileges with which they are favored; tenderly remembering the thousands and millions in the world who are perishing for want of instruction. May they cry after knowledge and lift up their voices for understanding,—seeking her as silver, and searching for her as for hid treasure; that by thy grace accompanying the means, they may truly know the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God; and be fitted to serve Thee and their generation, according to thy will in this world, and to enjoy Thee in the fulness of thy kingdom and glory in the world to come.

Give wisdom and grace, we beseech Thee, to their parents, and to their teachers, for their respective situations and duties; and bestow upon them severally every good and perfect gift.

Graciously prosper the means of divine instruction, and of all useful knowledge, and true virtue and happiness, in this place, and throughout our land. Remember in mercy the dark places of the earth, and let the whole world soon be filled with the light of thy glory; for the sake of Jesus Christ, thy beloved Son, and our adored Redeemer and Savior. Amen.

BRIEF PRAYER FOR A SABBATH SCHOOL.

Gracious Savior, who hast said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, regard with thy favor every effort to bring up children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Give, holy Lord, we beseech Thee, wisdom and discretion, patience, kindness, and perseverance, to all who con-

duct schools. Bless those who endeavor to instruct the young. Do Thou teach them that they may teach others.

Heavenly Father, grant that the children of this school may receive with a humble, teachable, and ready mind, all the instructions given to them according to thy word. Give them thy grace while young, that early seeking Jesus their Savior, they may find Him. Let them remember their Creator in the days of their youth. Teach them to honor their parents and superiors, and to be kind and full of love towards each other. God grant that they may all be trained up in the way in which they should go, and when they are old never depart from it. May the knowledge of the Lord be universally diffused, till at length all shall know Thee, from the least to the greatest, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A PARENT'S PRAYER.

O Almighty Father, suffer us to come to the throne of thy mercy and bring the precious children which Thou hast given us. Thou hast condescended to enter into covenant with thy people, and hast engaged to accept their children at their hands, if they offer them to Thee in faith. Help us to lay hold of that covenant, and truly to devote these our children to Thee. In kindness hast Thou lent them to us; we give them back to Thee, and pray, that we may evermore feel that they are not ours, but thine. Blessed Savior, sanctify them early by thy Spirit; lay thine hands upon them, inscribe thine image on their hearts, and as they grow up, may they serve and honor Thee, and promote the salvation of those around them. Give us the wisdom which is from above, that we may know how to train them up for Thee, and by our example,

instructions, and prayers, to promote the spirit of religion in their hearts. Enable us to exert a proper control over them, and to administer that discipline, which with thy blessing may be the means of their best good. We ask not for them the wealth and distinctions of this world; but we intreat a better inheritance, even spiritual blessings in heavenly things in Christ Jesus. Let them be the servants of God, to do his will here, even though it be in much suffering and many privations; and may they be to the praise and glory of thy grace, in the world to come.

Now, O Lord, they are thine. Be Thou their Father and their God. Guide them through this world; preserve them when in temptation; console them in sorrow; and glorify thyself in them, in life, and in death, and forever, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

FOR RELIGIOUS AND CHARITABLE SOCIETIES.

O Lord Almighty, faithful and true, who, by thy Holy Prophet hast told us, that from the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same, thy name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto thy name, and a pure offering; for thy name shall be great among the heathen; bless and prosper, we beseech Thee, the endeavors of the societies established among us for the propagation of the gospel among the heathen and others; take Thou from them to whom the glad tidings of salvation shall be preached, all ignorance, hardness of heart, and contempt of thy word; so that thy word being sown in good and honest hearts, it may bring forth fruit abundantly to thy honor, and the salvation of their souls: grant that all who have heard and received it may live according to its doctrine and precepts, and by

holiness of life, and zeal for thy glory, may become eminent examples to all about them. Bless all religious and other societies among us, for Christian conference, and works of charity; for the promoting of Christian knowledge and practice among the poor and ignorant. O Lord increase the number of these societies, and enable them all to choose the best and most inoffensive means for accomplishing their several ends, and to prosecute them diligently, with a zeal directed by wisdom and prudence; so that being free from all worldly interests, they may steadfastly pursue the advancement of thy glory and the good of mankind. And grant, O God, that no good Thou shalt vouchsafe to bring about by their poor endeavors may tempt them to think highly of themselves, but modestly and humbly. Remove all unreasonable prejudices against their designs; shed forth thy love abroad in their hearts, that they may cheerfully embrace all opportunities of doing good to the souls and bodies of men, and not to be discouraged at any difficulties or oppositions they may meet with. O God, hear their prayers for themselves and others; defend them from the rage of Satan, and from the malice of evil men; perfect holiness more and more in their hearts; unite them finally to one another in thy truth, and in the bond of love, and make them zealous in all good works, according to the command and example of Jesus Christ, who went about doing good; for whose sake we beseech Thee to hear us. Amen.

FOR A BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

O Thou who art the Father of the fatherless, and the Judge of the widow, who hast declared it to be pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father, to visit

the fatherless and the widow in their afflictions, bless all thy servants in any way engaged in supporting and carrying on this work of mercy and love. May those that have pity on the poor, find, by happy experience, that they have lent unto the Lord, and that He pays them again what they have given.

Help us to remember what a responsible duty is committed to our charge, rightly to divide and apportion those alms which have been entrusted to us, among those in real necessity; and give us grace to act wisely and faithfully.

In all our visits to the poor and afflicted do Thou go with us. Enable us to speak with them, and act towards them, both in fidelity and in tenderness. With whatever difficulties, disappointments, or reproaches, we may meet, let us never be weary of well-doing. Enable us, in all things, patiently to follow his example who went about doing good.

Bless us and all men in every endeavor to reclaim the wicked, instruct the ignorant, comfort the mourner, and confirm the believer; and make true religion every where spread, till the earth be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters covers the sea, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FOR THE ENLARGEMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST.

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the God of the spirits of all flesh, the earth is thine and the fulness thereof, the round world and they that dwell therein.

We come as sinners, but trusting in thy beloved Son, our Advocate, and the propitiation of our sins, and looking for the promised spirit of grace and supplication.

Lord, we confess before Thee our own sins and those of our country. Like thy people of old, while we have been greatly distinguished by privileges, we have also been a sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evil doers, children that are corrupters. We have forsaken the Lord and have provoked the Holy One of Israel. And chiefly now we would confess our coldness and indifference in extending the blessings of that glorious Gospel which Thou hast entrusted to us. How slothful and unconcerned have we been to communicate to others the privileges which we enjoy, and to use all the means which Thou hast given unto us of imparting the knowledge of Christ to distant lands. To us belong shame and confusion of face, because we have sinned against Thee. But to the Lord our God belong mercies and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him.

We beseech Thee give us a zeal for thy glory. Fountain of light and life and grace, pour upon us thy quickening Spirit, to animate and excite us to devote ourselves to Thee. Raise up, we pray Thee, those who shall unceasingly pray, and give, and think, and labor, for the spread of thy truth. Revive the days of the primitive church, when thy people, walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.

May the true light come more and more to thy church, and the glory of the Lord rise upon her, and may she arise and shine; and may the Gentiles come to this light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

Lord, we plead the glory of thy great name, the faithfulness of thy promises, and the happiness of thine own creation; and with these pleas, we ask, that the heathen may be given to Christ for his inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession.

O Lord, the king of glory, hast Thou not said, "It shall come to pass in the last days, that I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh?" Behold! in these last days: give now to us that ask. With Thee is the residue of the Spirit; and the Lord's hand is not shortened that it cannot save, nor his ear heavy that it cannot hear.

Have respect unto the Covenant, for the dark places of the earth are full of the habitations of cruelty. May the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings, on those people now sitting in darkness and the shadow of death.

We pray Thee to hasten the coming on of that time when it shall not be asked, Who hath believed our report, and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? but it shall be said, The Lord hath made bare his holy arm in the sight of all nations, and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

And grant, gracious Lord, that while the fulness of the Gentiles is come in, all Israel may also be saved. May the veil which remains upon their hearts when Moses is read, be taken away by their turning to the Lord. May this branch, which has so long been broken off, at length be grafted into its own Olive-tree.

O let the Deliverer come out of Zion, and turn away ungodliness from Jacob.

And while we thus pray, we thank Thee, good and gracious Lord, for all the blessed signs of the times in which we live. We bless Thee for the beginning of a general desire to spread thy truth through the world, and that societies have been raised in these latter days among all denominations of thy servants, for evangelizing the heathen, and for their conversion from dumb idols to the living God. We thank Thee for any success given to these efforts, and would thereby be encouraged to persevere in more zealous labors and more fervent prayer.

O Father of lights, and giver of all wisdom, bless every society formed for the conversion of Jews or Gentiles, and for the spread and advancement of thy truth at home or abroad. Guide the minds of all who conduct their affairs. In all their difficulties and trials comfort and support them. Especially direct them in the choice of fit instruments. Give them the discerning of spirits, that none may be sent forth but such as Thou hast called, prepared, and qualified for the blessed yet arduous office of proclaiming the unsearchable riches of Christ. Greatly increase the number of such laborers. Give, O give Thou the word, and great shall be the company of preachers. Bless all who support thy cause at home. May they that love thy Jerusalem prosper in body and soul; in endeavoring to water others, may their own souls be watered.

Look with thy favor on all missionaries now among the heathen. O prepare the way in the wilderness. May every valley be exalted, every hill made low; may the crooked be made straight, and the rough places plain; and the word of the Lord every where have free course and be glorified. May thy doctrine, constantly preached by thy servants, drop as the rain and distil as the dew, and thy word never return unto Thee void, but prosper abundantly, and accomplish all that for which Thou dost send it. Give thy servants health and strength, vigor of mind, and devotedness of heart; and may they all be chosen vessels to bear thy name before the Gentiles. May the deadening influence of climate, heathen customs, and loss of means of grace, be more than counteracted by a special supply of thy Holy Spirit. May it have to be recorded of each one of them, He was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith; and much people were, through him, added to the Lord. Give them grace to be faithful

unto death, and may they receive from the Savior's hands the crown of life and glory. Grant that thousands and tens of thousands may rise up to call them blessed. May the little leaven leaven the whole lump; and all nations whom Thou hast made fall down and worship before Thee.

O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not for thine own sake, O our God. For thy dear Son's sake, answer. May He see of the travail of his soul and be satisfied. Amen, and Amen.

Our Father who art in heaven; hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

A GENERAL PRAYER.

O Gracious Lord, whose mercies endure forever, we thine unworthy servants desire to render unto Thee the tribute of our most humble praise. In Thee we live and move and have our being. Thou hast created us and Thou hast preserved us.

We thank Thee for that protection of thine hand by which we and ours have been guarded amidst many dangers, and for those gracious deliverances which Thou hast wrought out for us.

We likewise praise Thee for the gift of health, of friends, of food, and raiment, and for the various comforts and conveniences of life which we enjoy.

O Lord grant that we may render unto Thee not only the fruit of our lips, but the obedience of our lives; and may these thy temporal mercies be to us an earnest of those richer blessings which Thou hast prepared for them that love Thee. But we adore Thee, above all, for the gift of Jesus Christ to be our Savior. Thou who didst create us hast condescended also to redeem us. Thou didst send thy Son to save us from the punishment of our sins by his blood, and from the power of them by his grace, and thus to bring us to glory. Thou hast caused us to be born in this Christian land, and consecrated to Thee in baptism; and when, through our own wilfulness and negligence, we have failed in fulfilling the baptismal vow which was upon us, Thou in thy mercy hast not forsaken us, but hast graciously invited us to repentance. O righteous Lord, who hatest iniquity, we confess that we have done the things which Thou forbiddest, and left undone the things which Thou commandest. In thought, word, and deed, we have transgressed against Thee.

O pardon our sins for Jesus Christ's sake. Look upon us in thy Son, our blessed Savior, and for the merit of his sufferings blot out our transgressions and receive us into thy favor. For his sake also, renew and purify our hearts, that we may become new creatures in Christ Jesus, utterly forsaking every evil way, and living in a constant course of obedience to thy commandments. We are not able of ourselves so much as to think a good thought; we therefore beseech Thee, by thy spirit, to work in us both to will and to do according to thy good pleasure.

Enlighten our minds that we may know Thee, and let us not be barren nor unfruitful in that knowledge. May we be thankful for thy mercies, humble under thy corrections, and devoted to thy service. Put into our hearts a true faith, a purifying hope, and an unfeigned charity;

and let no christian grace be wanting in us. Give us meekness, humility, and contentedness of mind. Make us diligent in our duty, watchful against all temptation, and temperate in our most lawful enjoyments. Grant unto us grace to perform all parts of justice, yielding unto every man, whatsoever, by any kind of right, becomes his due; and put also into our hearts such mercy and compassion that we may be ever ready to do acts of charity both to our friends and enemies, according to the commandment and example of our blessed Savior. O Lord sanctify us throughout, that our whole spirits and souls and bodies may be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

O Thou whose mercy is over all thy works, we beseech Thee to have pity upon all men. Look with thy tenderest compassion upon our country and our churches. Give us all grace to repent of those sins which have provoked thy judgments. Bless all in authority over us. So rule their hearts and strengthen their hands that they may want neither will nor power to punish wickedness and vice, and to maintain thy true religion. Have pity on all who are in affliction; be a father to the fatherless, and plead the cause of the widow. Comfort the feeble minded, support the weak, heal the sick, relieve the needy, defend the oppressed, and be gracious to all according to their several necessities. Let thy special blessing rest upon those who are near and dear to us, and grant them whatsoever Thou seest necessary either to their bodies or their souls. Reward such as have been good to us, and pardon those who have done or wished us evil, and make us all acceptable in thy sight through Jesus Christ.

O Lord, pardon the wanderings and coldness of these petitions, and deal with us, not according to our prayers or deserts, but according to our needs and thine own rich

mercies in Jesus Christ, in whose blessed name and words we conclude these our imperfect prayers.

Our Father who art in heaven; hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

FOR THE CONVERSION OF THE WORLD.

Almighty and most merciful Father, we give Thee humble thanks for the light of thy gospel. Make us more grateful for this thy mercy, and more zealous for the salvation of all mankind. Look with pity on every Christian land. Take away all darkness and superstition and worldliness of spirit from the Christian churches, that they may arise and shine, and show that their light is come, and the glory of the Lord risen upon them. O Lord bless thy servants who are laboring among the heathen! The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few. O Thou Lord of the harvest, send forth laborers into thy harvest! Raise up, we beseech Thee, in greater numbers, humble, self-denying, and holy men. Fill their hearts with love to Thee and to the souls of the heathen. Let them have this grace given unto them, that they may preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ! Make them diligent and skilful in learning the languages of the heathen. Let them be active, devout, and dead to the world. Guard them from sickness and pain. Keep them from the snares of the world, the flesh, and the devil. Deliver them from all evil. Comfort their

hearts, strengthen their hands, and make them wise to win souls; and give unto all around them ears to hear and hearts to understand! Take away blindness from the Jews. Let them receive Thee, O Jesus, as their Messiah, and proclaim thy saving name among the Gentiles! Deliver all Mahomedans from the delusions of the false Prophet. O Thou True Prophet of thy church, enlighten them by thy Holy Spirit, and bow them down at the foot of thy cross. Pity blind idolators who are kept in cruel bondage by the god of this world. Turn them from idols that they may serve the living and true God! Bring all the heathen throughout the world from darkness to light and from the power of Satan unto God! O let the kingdoms of this world become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ! Bless all the children in the schools among the heathen; and make many of them, when they grow up, to become wise and faithful preachers of the gospel to their own countrymen! Bless all who labor in every nation to make known thy holy word in the languages of the people; yea, so bless them, that every man may soon read in his own tongue wherein he was born, the wonderful works of God! Unite as one man all who are truly laboring for Thee. Let all Christian Societies live in harmony and love. Give them wisdom in all their plans, and grace to choose fit persons to serve Thee among the heathen; and cause all missionaries to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace! Disappoint the designs of Satan. Make perfect thy strength, Almighty Savior, in the weakness of thy servants! O Thou, who by the right hand of God art exalted, and hast received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, shed forth his light and grace on this dark world! Thou hast ascended on high — Thou hast led captivity captive — Thou hast received gifts for men — yea, even for the rebellious. O

pour down those gifts on all thy servants, that the Lord God may dwell among them! Cause all Christians, we beseech Thee, to sow bountifully, that they may reap also bountifully. O Thou that lovest a cheerful giver, let all grace abound toward them, that they may minister liberally of their substance to the making known of thy name! Pour out on all Christian ministers and people a spirit of grace and supplication; and enable them to plead in faith the glorious promises of thy holy word! With these our humble prayers, we join our praises and thanksgivings for what Thou hast done, in making thy saving health known to the perishing heathen. Perfect thy work, O Lord, concerning them. Thou hast said that from the rising to the setting of the sun thy name shall be great among the Gentiles; and that in every place incense shall be offered to thy name and a pure offering. Thou hast said that all the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the Lord, and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before Thee. And Thou hast commanded us to give Thee no rest, till Thou establish, and till Thou make thy Jerusalem a praise in the earth. Hear us then O God of our salvation! and let us meet in heaven with multitudes from the East, and West, and North, and South, who shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of our Father! We ask these mercies for the glory of thy name, through the merits and mediation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; and would ascribe to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, all honor and praise, forever and ever. Amen.

PRAYERS AT TABLE.

BEFORE MEAT.

Almighty God! the eyes of all wait on Thee, and Thou givest them their meat in due season. Bless, we beseech Thee, the provisions of thine earthly bounty which are now before us; and let them nourish and strengthen our frail bodies, that we may the better serve Thee, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Bountiful Giver of every good and perfect gift! Thou art never weary of supplying our returning wants — Grant, we pray Thee, that the food, of which we are about to partake, may contribute to the comfort and support of our bodies, — and enable us to engage with more zeal in thy service; which we ask for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Let thy blessing, Almighty God, descend on this portion of thy bounty, and on us, thy unworthy servants, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty God, we beseech Thee to pardon our sins, to bless the refreshment now before us, to our use, and us to thy service, through Jesus Christ.

Father of Lights, from whom cometh down every good and perfect gift, enable us to receive these fruits of thy bounty with humility and gratitude, and give us grace,

that, whether we eat or drink, or whatever we do, we may do all to thy glory, and be accepted through the great Redeemer.

Bounteous God, we acknowledge our dependence on Thee, and our unworthiness of thy benefits. We pray Thee to forgive our sins, to bless us in the reception of this food, and enable us to improve the strength we may derive from it to thy glory, for Christ's sake.

AFTER MEAT.

We thank Thee, O God, our heavenly Father! for the innumerable good gifts of thy providence. Especially do we thank Thee for the rich provision Thou hast made for our souls. Accept our grateful acknowledgments for the food we have now received; and enable us to prove our sincerity, by the holiness and obedience of our lives, for the sake of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

What shall we render to Thee, O God, for all thy benefits? Every day of our lives we are receiving fresh tokens of thy favor. O let thy goodness lead us to repentance. And if we can do no more than express our gratitude — help us to do that in the sincerity of our souls — and thine shall be the glory forever, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Accept, heavenly Father, our humble thanks for this, and for all thy blessings, through Jesus Christ.

We thank Thee, our heavenly Father, for the rich provision Thou hast made for our temporal and eternal welfare; especially for the food we have now received. May thy goodness lead us to repentance, and thy grace prepare us for heavenly entertainments, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We praise Thee, O Lord, for the provisions of thy providence and grace, and in particular for this renewed token of thy favor. May we feel our increased obligations to be thine, and be fitted at length to eat bread in thy heavenly kingdom, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

We bless Thee, O Lord, for this kind refreshment. Be pleased to continue thy favors, and feed us with the bread of life. Supply the wants of the needy, and enable us, while we live on thy bounty, to live to thy glory, for Christ's sake. Amen.

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